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Saucy stage performance from Broadway gets a Chinese touch.

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Straight from Japan, the coolest way to kill your social life.

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## Lending a hand to young Olympians



US swimmer Michael Phelps (left) holds a boy's hand during a promotional event, yesterday, in Shanghai. Phelps and teammate Katie Hoff left Beijing two days ago to continue a goodwill tour to promote the 2007 Special Olympics, which will be held in Shanghai.

IC Photo

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# Springtime for Chinese philanthropy

By Jiang Xubo

The Hurun Report released its fourth annual Philanthropy List, a benchmark ranking of the 100 most generous Chinese, Wednesday.

Yu Pengnian, 85, chairman of Shenzhen-based Pengnian Industries, ranked first for the second year with donations totaling two billion yuan (US\$260 million) since 2003, which accounts for almost 100 percent of his money – a proportion higher than what Bill Gates and Warren Buffett have donated, according to the report.

Yu became well known for his nationwide campaign started in 2004, which offers free operations for some 100,000 people with cataracts.

Philanthropists on the list donated a combined total of some 9.5 billion yuan since 2003, most of which went to education, poverty alleviation and medical care.

"The springtime for philanthropy has arrived. The birds are beginning to sing," Rupert Hoogewerf, CEO of the Hurun Report, said, "People were doing philanthropy before on a small

scale with short-term thinking. But now, people are doing it for the long-term and in a way that is more systematic. More and more philanthropists are starting to work with charity organizations, and even set up their own charity funds."

The economic boom contributed to a better atmosphere for philanthropy, Liu Xuanguo, assistant to the secretary general of the Chinese Cross Foundation, said.

"The country's new tax law, issued this March, raised the amount of revenue companies can donate in exchange for tax exemp-

tions from three percent to 12 percent, and the newly issued property law extends equal protection to private property and ensures private entrepreneurs' right to dispose of their property," Liu said.

But philanthropy also faces challenge in the country. "The most difficult thing for Chinese philanthropy is to make it efficient. So the greatest challenge is to work out what the best way is to have the deepest impact on the greatest number of people for the longest time," Hoogewerf said, "Sustainability is the key word."

## More English speakers ahead of Beijing Olympics

By He Jianwei

The foreign language speaking population in Beijing will reach five million, or 35 percent of the total population, by the opening of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, an official in charge of foreign language learning said Wednesday.

4.87 million residents in Beijing were able to speak English as of the end of last year, and the population will increase by another 60,000 by the end of this year.

Liu Yang, head of the Beijing Speaks Foreign Languages Program and the Office for Standardization of English Translation of Beijing Public Signs, said at a press conference at the Beijing Olympic Media Center said the above.

"The additional 60,000 will mainly include students who entered high school this year, retired people learning English in their communities, and employees in training courses," he said.

"We will continue to promote foreign language training for civil servants and people in the service sector, such as taxi and bus drivers, tour guides, shopping center salespeople and postal workers," he said.

He urged foreigners living in Beijing and volunteers to help Beijing residents learn foreign languages.

"We hope foreigners can participate in teaching foreign languages to Chinese residents," he said.

About 6,530 English signs on municipal roads in the eight urban districts were standardized by the end of 2006, he said.

They will finish the replacement of English signs in key public areas of Beijing by the end of this year. Signs in scenic spots, commercial venues, museums, cultural facilities, subways and public transport, health care, sports venues and sanitation facilities began a standard English mass makeover last year, he said.

"We will ask residents to find Chinglish public signs in the second half of this year, so that the signs in small stores or hutongs can be corrected," he said.

## Bird's Nest's commercial plans spark controversy

By Chu Meng

The National Indoor Stadium, where some of the most popular spectator sports of the Summer Olympic Games will take place in 2008, is considering post-game commercial plans, an official from the Olympic Stadiums Center said this Tuesday in Beijing.

Zhang Hengli, spokesman and vice general-director of the National Indoor Stadium Co, Ltd told Beijing Today, "We are considering giving the stadium a commercial name after the Olympic Games. Three companies have already taken field studies of the construction spot."

Zhang also disclosed that, "In addition to the National Indoor Stadium, the National Stadium, the venue for the opening and closing ceremonies, and the soccer finals, as well as the National Swimming Center, will get commercial names after the Games. In order to better utilize all those venues for the wider public, reconstructions will be carried out after the Games."

Located on the Olympic Green, the National Indoor Stadium will host the gymnastics, trampoline and handball competitions. Its construction was started in May 2005, and will be finished in December 2007.

To insulate the building from noise and extreme temperatures, Chinese engineers have used an innovative nine-layer material for the roof of the building and double-layer, argon-infused glass for the curtain walls. In order to save sand and give the stadium a distinctive "green label," 80,000 tons of slag, residue from steel melting, has been used to build the stadium basement.

The stadium, which has 80,900 square meter footprint and can be used for various kinds of sports competitions and cultural activities, will serve as a multi-functional sporting center after the Olympic games.

The reconstruction of venues and related commercial facilities after the 2008 Olympic Games will be designed in accordance with the technical requirements of the IOC and in line with China's national conditions and Beijing's actual development, Zhang said. The experiences and lessons of other host cities in venue construction will be taken into account during that future phase, he said.

## Smiling volunteers mimic penguins to help with queues



Beijing Smiling Ambassadors queue in front of a registration counter at the Capital International Airport on Queue Day, Wednesday.

Photo by Brook Wang

## Crack down on illegal antiques auctions

By Zhao Hongyi

A fake dining plate from the Yongzheng period (1723-1736) was sold for over 10,000 yuan. It was really worth about 100 yuan, and was one of many fake antiques, calligraphy scrolls and traditional Chinese ink-paintings prepared for auction as treasures last Sunday at the spring auction held by Cangnet Auctioneers.

"The bubble is too big," Yu Ping, deputy director of the Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage (MACH), said at the auction.

Yu and his colleagues, together with officials from the Municipal Administration of Industrial and Commerce (MAIC), jointly monitored the auction held in the Huadu Hotel in Beijing.

The government watchdogs confiscated eight works on Sunday. Cangnet issued a notice afterwards that they have withdrawn the eight works for sale, because "the introductions and notarizations were incorrect."

Earlier last week, Beijing Dade Auction listed the antiques as part of their spring auction, which focuses on Buddhist history and culture. They claimed they have collected hundreds of Buddha sculptures and Tibetan Buddhist portraits from the Ming and Qing dynasties.

"Most of the works are forbidden for sale under the current laws," Yu told local media. "And more importantly, most of the relics and antiques are fake."

Zhou Zhanzhu, director for

high-value commodities transactions at MAIC, said they have started investigations of the two cases and will find solutions through administrative and legal channels.

In the past three years, antiques transactions through auction have increased rapidly in Beijing and reached a total value of seven billion yuan last year. Over 70 auctioneers have obtained the quality certificates issued by government watchdogs.

However, nearly 150 smaller auctioneers, such as Beijing Dade, are entering the prospering market without any quality certificate, according to Yu.

Last year, 17 auctioneers were penalized for various reasons by the authorities.

## Beijing government to spay and neuter dogs free of charge

By Chu Meng

The Beijing Municipal government announced Tuesday it will spay and neuter dogs free of charge to help citizens control the city's increasing dog population.

The Beijing Kennel Club Association, located in Changping District in the city's northern suburbs, will provide the operations until June under a pilot program with the support of the government, Zheng Bo'ang, chairman of the association, said.

Beijing implemented a "one

dog, one family" policy last year as the number of urban pets continued to rise. Zheng said by the end of last year the number of registered dogs in the city exceeded 600,000 but the actual number of pet canines in the capital is likely closer to a million.

"Dogs bring happiness and laughter to owners, but also troubles to city managers and complaints from residents," Zheng said.

Spaying and neutering dogs is encouraged in the by-laws of many countries, Zheng said,

adding that studies show the operation helps dogs to live longer and healthier lives.

Grace Ge Gabriel, Beijing representative of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, based in the US, said the operations will help reduce the number of unwanted pet dogs. "Many pets are abandoned or maltreated and vagrant dogs can be a source of injury and disease," Ge Gabriel said.

Not all Beijing pet owners are in favour of having their dogs "fixed." "My dog is like my family member.

Would you do this to your family member, even though it might be good for them?" a young woman surnamed Yuan asked while walking her dog Youyou in Tuanjiehu Park Wednesday afternoon.

Other citizens complained that the free service was too short for most pets' owners to have time to bring their dogs to the animal club, which was two hours' time by private car, and longer by public transportation. Residents demanded more animal clinics in closer urban areas.



# Rat poison in hospital food kills one, injures hundreds

By Qiu Jiaoning

A bad batch of porridge killed one and injured more than 200 patients, doctors and nurses at Heilongjiang Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Tuesday.

The lethal porridge was laced with a liberal dose of fluoroacetamide, a powerful rat poison, a spokesman for the Heilongjiang Provincial Disease Control Center said.

The victims, aged 6 to 77, suffered nausea and diarrhea shortly after breakfast in the hospital's

cafeteria on Monday. The most seriously afflicted was 77-year-old Du Qingrong, who was hospitalized for heart disease on April 6. He died Monday afternoon after eating the porridge.

All the other victims are out of danger.

Wang Enhai, head of the Heilongjiang Health Emergency Command Center, said local police are conducting further investigation and could not dismiss the chance the poisoning was intentional. The hospital, staffed by more than 600, is one of Heilongjiang's largest and

best-equipped medical institutions. Its cafeteria was closed shortly after the incident, and food samples were taken for testing and investigation.

The initial investigation revealed that the water used to cook the porridge may have been laced.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) shipped 3,000 acetamide inoculations, an antidote for fluoroacetamide, from Beijing to Harbin, where the incident occurred. Neighboring Jilin Province offered 290 doses immediately.

The MOH also organized an expert group to treat the victims,

Tuesday. Wang Xinchun, one of the experts, said most of the poisoned were in stable condition and shouldn't have any lasting damage.

Food poisoning incidents are common in China. For instance, some manufacturers add illegal ingredients to products, and some cooks disregard hygiene standards.

Last year, about 100 Sichuan children fell ill after eating porridge and steamed buns at a primary school. Another 336 fell ill in Shanghai after eating poisoned pork.

## Air crash kills first farmer-aviator

By Jiang Xubo

The crash of a private plane took with it Tan Chengnian, known as the country's first farmer-aviator, last Sunday in Pingyin County, Shandong. The cause of the crash remains unknown.

The Mifeng-4 plane was seen crashing into a farmer's roof, shortly before it rolled into a neighbor's backyard. The pilot, trapped in his seat, was killed on impact. Aside from the pilot, there were no other casualties or explosions, the local *Qilu Evening News* reported.

Xu Xueping, owner of the plane, said he lent his plane to a local aeronautics club, which hired the pilot for aerial photography.

Local air traffic authorities said this week that they received no application for the flight.

The country's regulations on individual flights demand a one-week notice, with detailed information about the flights' destination, route and altitude, according to Jinan Air Traffic Management Center of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China.

Private planes are required to be under the custody of a responsible organization, which is allowed to fly. Aviators still must apply for clearance a day before takeoff, because multiple services, including communications and navigation, are necessary for flight security.

Tan, a farmer from Weifang City, Shandong, attempted to construct several homemade airplanes starting in 1995, but failed each time. He secured a pilot license in 2004, and eventually flew his DIY aircraft in 2005, earning a reputation as the country's first farmer-aviator. However, after eight months of test flights, aviation authorities banned Tan from flying his homemade plane over safety concerns.

National regulations have failed to reign in hobbyist fliers. The same day, another crash occurred in the local Tongzhou District when another aviation enthusiast attempted to fly his DIY plane without approval. Li Xianfeng, the pilot, survived the crash with minor injuries: a fractured leg and chin.

## Crackdown on illegal blood selling gangs

By Huang Daohen

Describing the gangs in Jieyang, a city in northeastern Guangdong Province, as hungry for blood has a whole new meaning.

The Jieyang gangs are organizing and profiting from illegal blood donations, Mao Qunan, spokesman for the Health Ministry, said Tuesday during a news briefing.

The racket was first exposed by the Guangzhou-based *Information Times* report last Wednesday. The report said blood sellers in the area numbered in the hundreds, and thousands of US dollars were made each month.

Pushed into action by the report, local officials began a crackdown on blood sales last Wednesday evening. As many as 100 police officers took part in a raid, and detained the scheme's mastermind and blood vendors, an official report post to the Jieyang government's web site said.

The gangs, according to a reporter surnamed Zheng from the *Information Times*, organized hundreds of "professional" blood donors in two urban villages in Jieyang, and their racket has been going on for 20 years.

Under orders from gang leaders and with the help of banned medicine, some donors were selling their blood in 400-milliliter increments up to 15 or 16 times per month, Zheng said. Some villagers had been selling 16 years. The blood was then sent off to several Guangdong cities, including Chaozhou, Shanwei, Heyuan and Huizhou.

Mao said the Blood Donation Law that was enacted in 1998 requires healthy citizens between the ages of 18 and 55 to donate blood voluntarily.

"However, the donation system was poorly implemented in some regions, and people there are reluctant to donate," Mao said. "The situation paved the way for these 'blood gangs' to pick up the slack, keeping local blood banks full and meeting hospitals' demands," Mao said.

Investigators from the ministry were sent to the city last Tuesday and probing efforts continue, Mao said.

## Spring through touch, smell and sound



A dozen blind orphans from Langfang-based Jici Orphanage, Hebei Province, enjoyed their free visit to the Beijing Botanical Garden, experiencing spring with their ears, noses and hands.

CFP Photo

## Naked sculpture blasted as aesthetic embarrassment

By Huang Daohen

Point-blank black humor and sexuality were ever present themes for Wang Xiaobo, a reputed writer



The sculpture caused hot debate.

Photo provided by Zheng Min

and renowned cultural critic, even after his death on April 11, 1997.

Disputes arose in March during a Shanghai exhibition that chose to remove a nude sculpture of Wang from its collection, and whipped back up again on Wednesday, the tenth anniversary of Wang's death, as photos of the sculpture made their way around the Internet.

The nude Wang was sculpted by Zheng Min, an undergraduate from the Guangzhou Fine Arts College, as his graduate project. To complete his work, Zheng, from a rural family, spent more than 10,000 yuan. He planned to exhibit it on the 10th anniversary of the writer's death.

Though initially chosen as an

exhibit at the Shanghai International Sculpture Exhibition at the end of March, the work was abandoned by organizers under strong demands from Wang's family.

Pictures of the sculpture leaked onto the Internet and sparked a huge controversy. Most net users were confused and criticized the nude work, saying it was disrespectful to Wang.

"Though the reform and opening up policy has been around for decades, people's minds are still closed," Zheng said. "There is still a vast gap between art and the public, and sometimes, even conflict."

Zheng said that Li Yinhe, Wang's wife and a noted sexologist, offered

him considerable help while he was sculpting. Li once sent Zheng as many as 10 of Wang's pictures.

Li agreed with Zheng after the sculpture was finished, and wrote in her blog that, "Since other cultural celebrities in history, like Victor Hugo and Balzac, have had nude sculptures, there is no reason Wang doesn't deserve to have one too."

In his work, Wang casts aside the shackles of the system and ethics, Zheng said. "Straight, free and open minded as he is, Wang's image is fully demonstrated in the work."

"Anyone who claims to enjoy Wang's work should not be stunned," he said.

### Brief news

#### Increasing number of infectious disease victims

At least 613 people across the country last month were killed by infectious diseases, a jump

of 42 over deaths in February, a Ministry of Health spokesman said on Tuesday.

#### Building the biggest SOS Children's village

Construction has begun on an SOS Children's Village in Beijing, the tenth in China

and the biggest to date, Ding Kaishan, the project spokesman, said Tuesday. Ding said it should be completed in 2008.

#### Shrinking trade surplus

The country's trade surplus fell to US\$6.87 billion last month, crashing below the

US\$10 billion mark for the first time since last March. The drop indicates a sharp, downward trend, Wang Xinpei, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce, said Wednesday.

(By Jiang Xubo)



# Hocking her golds for food

The painful aftermath of an athletic career

**“We are confused. Why don’t the sports departments enact policies to aid retired athletes?”**



*Ai and her husband tricycle to market, Monday afternoon, so they can sell their wares.*

Photo by Lu Jiazuo

By Jackie Zhang

A rented room, no more than ten square meters, with only a bed, a closet and a desk is not where you would expect to find an international athlete.

For Ai Dongmei, former champion of several international marathons who has retired since 2003, that home is a reality.

Since retirement from the Locomotive Sports Team, Ai has received only 320 yuan per month in income. She sells children's clothes as a street vendor to support and feed her one-year-old daughter. She even posted online that she hopes to sell her gold medals.

## Lawsuit against coach

Ai Dongmei joined the Locomotive Sports Team in 1995 and won medals in many domestic and international competitions. In 2003, Ai was forced to retire as athletics had deformed her feet.

“My coach Wang Dexian told us the team would arrange work opportunities in the Railway department. My former teammates Guo Ping, Li Juan and I waited for two years. Every time we phoned him, he said they were dealing with it, but when we went to the team's office for more information, the leader told us it was impossible to give us work,” Ai said.

“We heard from the team office that we should have been given a prize for winning all the medals, and wages and a subsidy for the daily training. We had not received any of them,” she said.

Last September, Ai, together with Guo and Li, sued Wang Dexian in the People's Court of Haidian District. Ai now lives in Beijing, waiting for her day in court.

## Ai's world

Ai and her husband wake up



*Ai and her family's plight is only one of the many horror stories of athletics in China.* Photo by Hao Yi

at 5 or 6am, and then head to the nearby market to peddle children's clothes and popcorn.

“My daughter gets up with us and plays alone on a tricycle while we do business,” Ai said.

“My monthly income is 320 yuan. My husband, who is also a retired athlete from the Locomotive Sports Team, used to get 300 yuan per month. Since Spring Festival, the team cut him off without notice,” Ai said.

Ai's feet are seriously deformed from fierce training: she can no

the truth when she got home.

Monday, Ai wrote an article on her blog saying she has decided to sell her medals. “In the long term, selling clothes on the street is a bad idea. I want to rent a store to do business. I have to pay for rent, and have to take care of my daughter. There's no choice except to sell my medals,” she wrote.

The post had 15 attached photos of her medals won in international competitions. “I hope to sell them, and one day buy them back if my financial situation turns



*Ai sells clothes as a street vendor while caring for her daughter.*

Photo by Lu Jiazuo

longer walk on her own. Wang Qihai, her husband, has to look after her and her daughter, and thus cannot go to work either. “We have to sell clothes and popcorn to afford daily necessities,” Wang Qihai said.

Ai said she could only earn about two to three yuan for each article of clothing. “Most people want to bargain with me. I've been selling clothes for about a week. So far, my best day's income was 140 yuan ... But it turned out the 100 yuan note was a counterfeit.”

Ai said she did not pay attention to the money and only learned

around,” she wrote.

Luckily for the couple, her husband landed a job at a website. “I passed the interview. The staff there told me I could go there for a three-month trial. Since my wife insists on taking care of our daughter herself, I have to work to try and lighten our financial burden,” he said.

## Fallen stars

Ai's story is far from unique. Last March, several newspapers reported that Zou Chunlan, a national weight lifting champion, had fallen to scrubbing public bathrooms for 500 yuan per month.

Liu Fei, the champion of the World Sports Acrobatics, has no income at all, no job and even nowhere to live. She said she regretted giving up school for the life of an athlete.

“We are confused. Why don't the sports departments enact policies to aid retired athletes?” Wang Qihai asked. He said they visited the Locomotive Sports Team's office several times, but the staff refused to help, or even to meet with them.

“China has policies about arranging for athletes' retirement,” Ai said, “I heard athletes who retire from the national and provincial teams are given work and financial aid. The Locomotive Sports Association is under the Sports Association of the Ministry of Railways, an industrial sports association. Do the policies just not apply to us?”

Wednesday, *Beijing Today* prodded the Locomotive Sports Association and the Sports Association of the Ministry of Railways for answers, but staff from both refused comment. The Locomotive Sports Association rudely cut off their phones.

Looking for answers from the General Sports Administration of China wasn't easy either: they never answer until after the paper runs.

## Road to the answer

Wang Li, a professor from the College of Management at Beijing Sports University gave the most extensive answer. She confirmed that there are policies for arranging athlete's retirement in China. “Generally speaking, the national sports teams and provincial sports teams all have to negotiate with local factories and enterprises. Retired athletes used to be put to work in them,” Wang Li said.

“Because national and provincial sports teams are a kind of

**“The system is complicated. I know sports departments have been discussing new policies for helping and making arrangements for retired athletes, but they still haven't reached a decision.”**



*Ai won many medals in international marathons during her years as an athlete.*

Photo by Hao Yi

governmental unit, athletes enjoy treatment equal to staff working in governmental institutional units. For industrial sports associations, like the Locomotive Sports Association, retired athletes were previously put to work in other departments. However, in recent years, the HR system has changed. Most factories and enterprises have slashed employment to cut costs, and many have strict requirements for new recruits. Arranging jobs for the athletes is not easy,” she said.

Wang said the root of the problem was the basic sports system, “Most of the athletes focus only on professional training when they join the teams, and they pay little attention to normal studies. This leaves them lacking many skills taught in basic education, and this is one of the main reasons they cannot find any jobs after retirement.”

“The system is complicated. I know sports departments have been discussing new policies for helping and making arrangements for retired athletes, but they still have not reached a decision,” Wang said.



# China issues new human organ transplant rules

Beijing (AP) – China published new rules governing human organ transplants in its latest effort to clean up a business critics say has little regard for medical ethics.

The rules issued Friday by China's State Council, the executive branch of government, included a ban on the sale of human organs for profit and on donations by people under 18, according to the text of the regulations published by the Chinese Communist Party newspaper *The People's Daily*.

The regulations, which take effect May 1, are also meant to standardize transplant procedures at the limited number of hospitals licensed to perform them.

The rules are needed, legislators say, to prevent unqualified doctors and profit-hungry hospitals from abusing patients.

## Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

"This is the country's first regulation on human organ transplants, which provides a concrete legal basis for the surgery," Zhu Jiye, secretary general of the Peking University Center for Transplantation, said.

"Though the Ministry of Health issued similar regulations on human organ transplants last year, this is the first regulation issued by the State Council. The comprehensive regulation makes it clear whose organs can be taken, who is qualified to take human organs and who is entitled to perform human organ transplants," Zhu said.

Human organ transplants have achieved rapid progress

in China in the last decade, Zhu said. The country is the world's number two performer of transplants, in both quality and quantity. China has developed mature and advanced human organ transplantation, which has earned it a worldwide reputation, he continued. This regulation will help to achieve better administration of human organ transplants in the country, according to Zhu.

The regulation makes it illegal to harvest human organs from dead bodies before they are legally pronounced dead, yet the new regulation failed to state a precise definition of "dead."

"People are assumed dead in our country when their hearts

stop beating, though the idea of brain death has been well accepted in many foreign countries since the 1960s invention of respirators, which enable people's hearts to keep beating though their brains may have died. People in our country have been reluctant to accept this idea due to tradition. Yet the adoption of this idea will save medical resources and will surely help provide more sources for human organs," Zhu said.

On average, about 1.5 million patients need organ transplants across the country each year, but only 10,000 can find organs due to a scarce supply of donors, according to Huang Jiefu, vice minister of health.

## Beijing to boost disease control for Olympics

Beijing (Zeenews.com) - Beijing will set aside thousands of hospital beds for emergency use during the 2008 Olympic Games in case of outbreaks of infectious disease, state media reported on Sunday.

By the time the Games begin in August 2008, the city would have 6,350 beds and 144 hospitals equipped to diagnose and treat infectious diseases like bird flu and SARS, a news agency said, citing the Beijing Disease Prevention and Control Centre.

"In the past, the outbreak of an infectious disease might not be reported in Beijing for up to a week. Now the delay has been reduced to less than 10 hours," the agency said.

China was widely criticized for its initial cover-up of the SARS virus, which originated in southern Guangdong province in 2002 and rapidly spread around the world, infecting about 8,000 people and killing 800.

China is also seen as crucial in the fight to control bird flu, which last week killed a teenage boy in eastern Anhui province. China has now reported 24 human cases of the H5N1 virus, including 15 deaths, since 2003.

Last month, China launched a campaign to vaccinate billions of domestic poultry birds, to guard against outbreaks occurring this spring, when the bird-borne virus is at its most contagious.

## Beijing courtyard home sells for record 14.2 million USD

Beijing (AFP) – A courtyard home in Beijing has sold for a record 110 million yuan (US\$14.2 million), reflecting the skyrocketing real estate prices in China's capital, state media reported Tuesday.

The house, near the picturesque Houhai lake in downtown Beijing, was sold for 36,324 yuan per square metre, almost double the average price of residential properties nearby, the Beijing News said.

A local property developer had been trying to sell the courtyard home since late 2005 after fixing it up as part of a broader development project but few people expressed interest until early this year, it said.

The report gave no details as to who bought the property or the exact date of the sale, saying only that the transaction occurred recently.

## Local govs blow dough on celeb MCs

Beijing (AP) – Local governments have been told to stop wasting money on paying celebrities to spice up their functions, state media reported Wednesday.

China's State Council gave the order Tuesday during a conference, the Xinhua News Agency said.

Local governments pay as much as 100,000 yuan (US\$12,950) for celebrities to appear at their events and boost their popularity, Xinhua said.

Chinese authorities have ordered several crackdowns on excessive spending by local governments to stop waste and cut down on widespread corruption.

## Taking a bite out of the Olympic Games



An Olympic-themed cooking test was held Wednesday at the community square on Yayuncun Street, Haidian.

One of the foreign judges could not help trying to bite one of Chinese traditional dishes.

CFP Photo

## No 'weirdness' for China's 'Idol' series

Beijing (AP) – Tears, wild hair and "unhealthy songs" are banned from China's latest version of "American Idol," which goes on the air next month.

"No weirdness, no vulgarity, no low taste," the State Administration of Radio, Film and Televi-

sion said Friday in a notice to the producers of "Happy Boys Voice," Xinhua reported.

"Happy Boys Voice" should include only "healthy and ethically inspiring" songs and "avoid scenes of screaming fans or losing contestants in tears," the regulator was

quoted as saying.

The show should "maintain a happy atmosphere," the letter said.

In a move that would shock Simon Cowell, the acid-tongued judge of the Fox network's "American Idol," the broadcast watchdog said judges were pro-

hibited "from mocking or humiliating contestants."

Contestants must be at least 18, Xinhua reported, and, "Their hairstyles, clothes, fashion accessories, language and manners should be in line with the mainstream values."

## Expert comment

By Jiang Xubo

"The regulator goes a little too far in the administration of this TV talent show. It is OK for the regulator to give some guidelines, but it is not a good idea, in my view, for the regulator to go into that much detail. It seems more reasonable to me for the regulator to punish those TV stations if they do commit any wrongdoings, instead of setting detailed regulations beforehand," Guo Zhen-

zhi, professor from the School of Journalism and Communication at Tsinghua University, said.

"TV talent shows are lucrative, so I don't think the regulator would ban the show completely. However there are likely to be stricter administrations," Guo said.

TV talent shows have been burgeoning in the country in the last several years, since Hunan TV started "Super Girls Voice" in 2004, a TV talent show viewed as the Chinese version of "American

Idol." Many TV stations across the country have launched their own talent shows, seeking to copy "Super Girls" success story.

"Our talent shows emphasize commerce at least as much if not more than foreign talent shows like "America Idol." While it is free for the audience to send text messages to vote for their favorite performer in the case of "American Idol," our shows consume not only audiences' time and enthusiasm, but also their money. It is unfair for the

audience. The shows are not concerned with the audiences' interest. I am really angry about that," Guo said.

If the regulators can carry out their administration of TV talent shows with due consideration of the development of different types of TV programs, all types of popular programs could survive in a more regulated environment, Guo said. In this way, a balance could be achieved, and the audience could enjoy a wider range of choice, she said.



# China to broaden QDII investment scope

Beijing, April 12 (Reuters) – China plans to allow qualified domestic institutional investors (QDII) to invest in a wider range of overseas products, including overseas stock markets, in the near future, the government's banking watchdog said this week.

The QDII scheme, launched last April to spur capital outflows and so temper upward pressure on the yuan, permits selected institutions to channel client money

abroad, mainly into fixed income and money market assets.

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) said that the new policies would be launched soon after consultations with other regulatory bodies, including the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

"In order to promote the further development of overseas wealth management services of commercial banks, the CBRC is now work-

ing with SAFE to study relevant policies related to a prudent widening of the scope of overseas investments," the agency said.

The CBRC provided no further details. Its announcement comes after a senior official with the currency regulator made similar comments late last month.

So far, yields of QDII products have not been attractive enough to lure mainland investors and only a fraction of the US\$14 bil-

lion QDII quota has been used.

Bank of China in February closed one of its QDII funds after just five months because a steady rise in the yuan had eroded returns expressed in dollars.

The CBRC added in its statement that it had signed a memorandum of understanding with Hong Kong's securities regulator that clarifies how the QDII business of mainland commercial lenders in Hong Kong will be supervised.

## BOCOG to expand franchise network

By Chu Meng

The network of Olympic franchise outlets in China will triple this year as BOCOG recruits more distributors to sell Olympic-licensed products, starting next month.

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) expects its franchises to number 2,000 by year end, up from a current 700 outlets, Tang Yonghong, chief of the Games' licensing and marketing division, said Tuesday in Beijing.

BOCOG has also cut the price of Olympic-licensed products by six to eight percent from earlier this year. The Fuwa mascots and other products, like everything else related to the Beijing Olympics, are increasingly sought-after by both businesses and the public.

Sales of Beijing Olympics-licensed products have already sur-

passed half the goal, Tang said. Normally, sales during the two years before the Olympics account for 20 percent of the total, Tang said, citing data from both the Athens and Sydney Games.

Tang did not give details for the expected sales, but he said it could be huge.

"The current sales are only a tiny part of the total volume," Tang said. "When the Games is held in 2008, there will be 10,000 Olympic retail outlets."

To further expand its network, BOCOG will allow retailers to recruit more regional distributors to sell the products.

Xinhua News Agency said earlier that BOCOG's sales target is US\$700 million. The *China Securities Journal* reported analysts had forecast that the sales would hit US\$1 billion.

## Yahoo!China accused of copyright infringement

By Zhao Hongyi

EMI, Sony, Warner and Universal are among 11 international music giants who have filed a joint suit in Beijing courts, accusing Yahoo!China of providing free downloads of 223 songs they own the copyrights to.

The companies are requesting compensation of 5.5 million yuan from Alibaba InfoTech Co, the parent company of Yahoo!China. They claim it has provided lyrics and ringtones of copyrighted songs on their website since April 10, 2006.

## IKEA aims for boom in Beijing

By Qiu Jiaoning

For the eighth anniversary of IKEA's Beijing store, David Mulligan, store manager, announced plans to increase customer traffic by ten percent by the year end, Thursday.

A spokesman said IKEA will host a two-part 11-day Reward Campaign: a direct-rewards program with price slashes of up to 60 percent and awards up to 4,998 yuan, and a lecture series reflecting IKEA's tradition.

After investing US\$100 million, the Beijing store was relocated from the heavily congested north Third Ring Road to Fourth

Ring Road last year. It's the second biggest IKEA store in the world: the Stockholm, Sweden store is number one.

IKEA plans to open 10 stores in China by 2010, including a new one in Beijing by 2008, and will gradually move its purchasing, financial, operational, security and other departments from Singapore to Shanghai.

The company has stores in Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou and Chengdu. China is the largest market for IKEA, and 18 percent of IKEA's materials are from China, according to company statistics.



## Biker babes in Chongqing

A model shows off a Chinese-made motorcycle at the sixth International Motorcycle Expo in Chongqing yesterday.

Over 110 motorcycle and component manufacturers from around the world gathered at the expo.

China has been the top motorcycle manufacturing country for the last 14 years.

Xinhua Photo

## Car sales increase 22.4 percent

Shanghai, April 12 (Dow Jones) – China-made passenger car sales between January and March totaled 1.54 million units, up 22.4 percent from the same period last year, Xinhua reported, citing the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Jiang Lei, deputy chief of the association, forecast earlier that car sales in China would rise 15 percent this year to eight million units, the report said.

## Beijing Enterprises buys piped gas

Hong Kong, April 12 (Reuters) – Beijing Enterprises Holdings Ltd said it would buy piped natural gas and related businesses in Beijing from Beijing Enterprises Group Co Ltd for HK\$11.6 billion (US\$1.5 billion).

The company said in a statement that about HK\$4 billion would be paid in cash and the remainder would be settled by issue of 411.25 million shares of stock at HK\$18.48 each.

## ABN AMRO, UCBH eye Huishang Bank

Shanghai, April 12 (Reuters) – Dutch bank ABN AMRO and US community bank UCBH Holdings Inc are among the potential rivals seeking to buy a minority 20 percent stake in China's mid-sized Huishang Bank.

ABN AMRO has been in negotiations with Huishang for six months. However, the San Francisco-based UCBH, the largest bank specializing in serving Chinese-Americans, recently joined discussions.

## Citic to raise US\$5.7 billion in IPO

Beijing, April 12 (Bloomberg) – China Citic Bank Corp may raise as much as US\$5.7 billion in a simultaneous Hong Kong and Shanghai initial public offering, the world's largest stock sale so far this year.

Mainland banks and insurers have sold US\$61.1 billion of shares in Hong Kong and Shanghai since June 2005, when Bank of Communications Co became the first domestic bank to go public in Hong Kong.

## AVIC I seeking financing

Shanghai, April 12 (Dow Jones) – State-run aircraft maker China Aviation Industry Corp I, or AVIC I, is branching into finance to help fund its rapid expansion.

AVIC I is assembling a locally-made regional jet ARJ21 and also expects to take part in the more ambitious and longer-term task of developing the first home-grown jumbo aircraft.

## BoA starts yuan business in Beijing

Beijing, April 12 (AFX) – Bank of America says its Beijing branch can now provide services such as cash management, loans, bank guarantees and trade finance in renminbi.

The bank has been doing yuan business in Shanghai for years and is expecting to receive a third yuan license to cover Guangzhou.



# A bullet to face, without a word



Passers-by watching the scene on the evening of April 7, the day when the incident occurred.

Photos provided by BYD

By Huang Daohen

A customer who walked into a bank in Shenyang, Liaoning, to withdraw money was shot in the face by an armed guard and died at the scene last Saturday.

There was, however, no immediate report in the print media. Rumors about the shooting first circulated online. The initial post on the event appeared on Tianya's Shenyang forum.

A reporter from the *Beijing Youth Daily* confirmed Wednesday with the deceased's family that the victim's name was Ji Cheng, 32 years old this year. His family lives in the workers' village of Sujiatun, and he was foreman of a small crew.

Ji went to the bank to withdraw some cash to take a client to dinner. When he turned to leave, he was shot by armored car guards from the Shenyang Financial Protection Center who had come for their daily



Zhang Yong, Ji Cheng's wife, shows reporters the last photos her husband shot only days before he was killed.

pickup. The deceased's wife, Zhang Yong, said that they had two daughters, aged four and six.

Requests to the Public Security Bureau (PSB) in Sujiatun district for an in-depth interview were refused. Nevertheless, the staff confirmed the matter, but claimed that the case had already been turned over to the municipal bureau. Calls later made to the municipal bureau went unanswered.

The Shenyang Financial Protection Center is a privately owned enterprise subordinate to the Shenyang Municipal PSB. It has 2,800 employees, more than 200 security cars, and has been named one of "the country's 10 best security companies."

In 2003, during Shenyang's "Nov 8" bomb bank robbery, which shocked the nation, a Financial Protection Center guard, Liu Wei, died. Following that case, all of Financial Protection Center's guards have been trained with live ammunition, and the guards have all remained on high alert.

## Comment

Generally speaking I don't get overly nervous in most situations. However, any time I see the financial protection services folk, clad in their somewhat comical blue combats, and armed with a gun, I get shaky.

These guys, whose job is to protect transfers of money between banks and to guard ATM repairs, look to be fresh off the playground for their youth, and embody a cold sternness that is chilly to witness.

— Ryan

It's fine to have sympathy for the guards, but none of that comes close to justifying lethal force as a first resort.

The training of the guards and their procedures are probably more at fault than the individual or the guard, but who do you think will get scape-

goated here? Certainly not a good, upstanding company ...

— Mike J

I know that feeling. There is a crosswalk not far from my place that has a Chinese bank next to the traffic light.

Every now and then the money transport guys park there when I wait for the traffic light to turn green, I always try to keep at least a tree between them and me.

— Snippet

My understanding is the guards were picking up money from the bank and at moments like this, the security around the bank and the van is intensely guarded and any disturbance could result in serious consequences, so the wise thing for anyone on the spot to do is cooperate as much as they can.

— Gale

This bank is too frightening. Who'll come back to deposit money here now?

— Chen J

I've seen some posts saying the customer was acting like a jerk and challenging the guards, so he sort of had it coming. Although no one wants to see people getting killed like this, he was not purely innocent.

— CLB

It's hard not to see that they take their jobs quite seriously, but it's hard to ignore that they look like kids with guns — and that's just stupidly dangerous. If Ji had known earlier about this, would he not have been shot in the face?

— AndyLin

(Source: Lostlaowai.com and Danwei.org)



The number of netizens in China reached 132 million by the end of last year.

With the popularization of internet connections, more kids and teenagers are attracted by rapidly improving online games, which threatens their health and study.

CFP Photo

## New rules target online gamers

In an effort to help reduce online addiction in young people, all game operators in China are being required to deter minors from playing their games for more than three hours a day, according to a circular issued by the State Press and Publication Administration (SPPA) Monday.

The circular says on-line game companies must develop a system that restricts a minor's playing time by canceling half their earned credits if they remain online for more than three hours a day. If the child plays for more than five hours a day all of their gaming credits will be taken away.

Most on-line games encourage players to play longer by rewarding them with more credits and virtual goods. "The system will only target minors who lack the self-discipline to control their playing time," Kou Xiaowei, an official from SPPA, said.

"There has been controversy

over the upper limit of 'healthy' playing time is," Kou said. "We set three hours as the final limit based on a survey that found 64 percent of Internet users in China play less than three hours a day."

Online gamers will also be required to register using their real names and identity card numbers, which will indicate if they are under the age of 18.

The companies will have until June 15 to develop an anti-addiction system, which will be fully tested by July 15 and implemented thereafter, according to the circular.

Over the past few years, China has seen an alarming rise in the number of teenagers addicted to internet gaming. A report released by the China National Children's Center claimed that 13 percent of Chinese net users under the age of 18 were addicted to online gaming.

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

## Comment

The launch of the system is a way to try to provide treatment for online indulgence and addiction. Nevertheless, relying merely on this system, without real support from game manufacturers and game players, won't help much.

The mandatory implementation of the real-name system is a necessity.

— Zhao Zhanling, legal expert

Take it easy. When people start using the net they spend a lot of time on the computer, since there's so much to learn about other peoples and the world outside. They might some day get bored and move to something else.

— IAF

This is a typical phenomenon: using technology to prevent social problems caused by technology. It will achieve results in the short term, but it is inevitable that new problems will soon come up as time goes by.

— Zhang Fan, web surfer

It's unfair for adults. The net-bar should have two systems. An adult should be able to

play whenever he wants, since he can tell right from wrong and should be responsible for his own behavior.

— swordson, game player

The system is not perfect, there are still flaws to be resolved. For example, what if a person has several game accounts? And what if a game player is playing more than one game?

— HCB

This is a step in the right direction. The companies could also possibly raise fees for continuing play beyond a set amount of time.

— Edward

Rather than dump everything on these kids who spend long hours in internet bars, better to ask why we are driving them there in the first place.

Lonely and bored, society expects nothing but homework and more study from them, and to get into university. Sadly, young people can often find a warmer life on the internet than they can in real life.

— Charlie

(By Huang Daohen)



# Phelps aims for eight golds at Beijing Olympics



US swimmer Michael Phelps instructs Special Olympics swimmers at a swim clinic Tuesday morning before his high school visit.

CFP Photo

By Han Manman

After finishing his Beijing tour, Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps arrived in Shanghai, Wednesday, on a goodwill trip to promote the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, set for Shanghai in October.

Phelps said touring Beijing with teammates Katie Hoff, Ryan Lochte and Megan Jendrick gave the Americans a chance "to gain some understanding of what it really is like over here." All four hoped to get inside the Aquatic Center, the swimming venue known as the Watercube, which is still under construction.

## Training a generation of young Chinese swimmers

Phelps's last scheduled stop in Beijing was a local high school, where he coached young swimmers. Arriving an hour late, Phelps's appearance made a big stir: he was greeted with a big banner and crowded audience.

Quickly finishing his conference, Phelps went to the school's pool to have a short session with the school's athletes, one of whom was just selected for the national team. Phelps answered the students' questions, and then watched them swim, giving them tips along the way.

"Pay attention to your legs, push ... push ..." he reminded the swimmers.

When the student performance competition finished,

Phelps shared his personal experience with the students and said perseverance is important for an athlete to be successful.

## Eyeing Thorpe's comeback

Phelps' old rival, Australia's Ian Thorpe, has been another hot topic. Phelps said Monday that he hopes Thorpe, battling drug allegations, can bounce back from retirement and compete in next year's Olympics. Phelps said he supports Thorpe's battle to clear his name over doping allegations.

"Ian and I have been great friends and competitors over the past few years and I wish him all the best," Phelps said Monday during a stop in Beijing with three other American swimmers to check out the 2008 Olympic venues. "I will say my support is with him, and I'm definitely hoping for the best."

"If Thorpe wants to start training now and get ready for the Olympics, I wouldn't put it past him. He still has a lot left in him."

## Chinese challenge

This 21-year-old American, who won six golds in Athens in 2004, seven at the recent world championships and set five world records in Melbourne, said switching the finals would make no difference. "I am definitely getting ready for the Olympics," he said.

Phelps said he was certain the US team would swim fast and win a lot of titles in Beijing.

Despite China's lackluster performance in Melbourne, where they

failed to capture a gold in swimming, Phelps said he was convinced China's athletes would be strong next year.

"As we've seen in the past, wherever the Olympics is, the host country is always at its best because it wants to show its people how good they are. The Chinese next year will be more excited that they ever have been. It's in their country; they are going to make the Olympics one-of-a-kind," he said.

"They are going to show something that's never been seen in the Olympics, in venues, in everything that goes into the Olympics. It's our job to defend our title in the medals," he said.

Phelps also mentioned Chinese athlete Wu Peng, who just won the silver in the men's 200-meter butterfly in Melbourne, and said Wu is improving very fast and believes he will be a strong competitor in the butterfly event.

In a controversial move to accommodate prime time US television audiences, the swimming finals at the Beijing Games have been shifted to the morning. The decision sparked outcry from some within the sport, notably the Australian team, but Phelps backed the change.

"To be perfectly honest, it's the Olympics. If you're not ready to swim at any given time, don't come. If you can't step up and get excited for an event whether it's morning or the finals, then stay at home and watch it on TV."



BOCOG official Wanghui (right) gives Fuwa to Janusz Tatera, the counsellor at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, with his wife and daughter.

CFP Photo

## Polish family applies for Olympic family tour

By He Jianwei

A foreign family from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland registered Monday, at the Beijing Olympic Media Center, as the first candidates for the "Olympic Families Tour Beijing" campaign.

Janusz Tatera, counselor and head of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland's Consular Section, with his wife and his daughter, have become the first candidate family for the Olympic families tour, which will make it possible for ten families, five from China and five foreign, to tour Beijing and the co-host cities in advance of the Olympics.

The Tatera family has a long history with the Games. Tatera has worked for the Polish Olympic Committee for eight years. He and his family have witnessed five Olympic Games since Atlanta in 1996.

"I still remember the International Olympic Committee's session in Moscow 2001. When Beijing won the bid for the 2008 Olympic Games, we imagined what Beijing could bring the world. I hope the Beijing Olympic Games will be the best in Olympic history," Tatera said.

Beata Tatera, the daughter of Janusz Tatera, studies Chinese at Beijing Language and Culture University. She was deeply influenced by her father. "When I was 12 years

old, my father made us medals out of potatoes," she said.

"Three weeks ago, on the date of the 500-day countdown to the Beijing Olympic Games, we participated in the walk-a-thon at Chaoyang Park and walked 18 kilometers," she said.

Aside from registering as a candidate family, the younger Tatera also applied to be a volunteer during the Games. "The Olympics, for us, is not about winning or losing, but participation. Our family has made friends with a Chinese family so we can learn Chinese," she said.

A bilingual Chinese and English website is the main platform for the campaign's two selection rounds. From April 9 to May 31, 100 families, 50 Chinese and 50 foreign, will be selected in the preliminary round. From June 1 to June 30, the list will be honed to ten families for the tour in the second round.

In August 2007, the start of the one-year countdown to the Beijing Olympic Games, the ten winning families will come to Beijing to begin their tour.

Any candidate family with at least three members can register on the official website of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. After registering, it can blog at Sohu.com to post its feelings and wishes for the Olympic Games during the second round of selection.

## X Games Asia hits the road in Beijing



X Games Asia 2007 presented its roadshow at Jin Yuan Times Shopping Mall over the last weekend.

Photo provided by Upstream Asia

By Huang Daohen

For action sport lovers who can't wait for Asia's ultimate competition in May, the X Games roadshow in Beijing last weekend at the Jin Yuan Times Shopping Mall was a great chance to preview the competition.

Beijing is the second stop on the KIA X Games Asia 2007 promotional roadshow, which started in Guangzhou late last month. The roadshow previewed a gripping series of events and offered the audience

a chance to interact.

One of the highlights is the Red Bull Street Course Clinic, where participants can register for free to put their extreme sport skills to the test, under the supervision of professional coaches.

Spectators this weekend also caught a glimpse of Jamster demonstrations by the best skateboard, inline-skating and BMX athletes, and had a chance to win prizes by trying their hand at the games, as arranged by the sponsors.

The KIA X Games Asia 2007, which will be held at the KIC Jiangwan Sports Center in Shanghai during the May Golden Week, was jointly organized by the Shanghai Media Group and the Shanghai Sports Federation.

The event showcases 200 of Asia's and the world's best extreme sports athletes from over 20 countries and five continents as they compete in BMX free-style, aggressive in-line skating, skateboarding and climbing.



# Former president unveils French culture season

By Han Manman

For the opening of the Festival Croisements/Jiaoliu 2007, former French President Valéry Giscard unveiled two exhibitions yesterday at the Beijing Capital Museum. The exhibitions will run until May 12.

During his speech at the opening ceremony, Giscard spoke some Chinese to the audience. He spoke very slowly, one syllable at a time, but still drew enthusiastic applause.

One photo exhibit, titled "Birth of Photography, A French Invention," by Nicéphore Niepce tells two stories: one of ground-breaking technology, and the other of a man, Nicéphore Niepce, the first to master photo-sensitive material to produce a picture.

Niepce was the first person to discover and document the technique of making a photograph, and is the father of its traditional views and concepts.

Niepce's works show the beginnings of photography, Alain Sayag from the Niepce Museum said. "We link the

principals of modern photography to three areas of Niepce's work – photo-sensitivity, photo plating and permanent, light created images – to show that they were the catalysts which launched photography in cinema, video and television," Sayag said.

The other exhibit, named "Willy Ronis in Paris," shows 190 black and white prints of the great humanist French photographer Willy Ronis, which recount seventy-five years of photography in Paris.

Willy Ronis spent most of the 20th century with a camera by his side, from the 1920s to the present day. Through his photography, film and personal archive, he relates memories of Paris to evoke his own story.

Created last year with support from Hu Jintao and Jacques Chirac, the yearly springtime Croisements/Jiaoliu 2007, from April 12 to June 10, bridges the gap between Chinese and French culture.

Giscard said that the Festival Croisements/Jiaoliu 2007



Former French President Valéry Giscard's speech in Chinese drew enthusiastic applause.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

not only gives Asia a window into France, but also memorializes the tradition of dialogue and cultural discovery.

According to the former president, the festival includes over 100 events, and will be held in 14 cities in China. The program emphasizes training, combines bringing French "Chinese

experts" to China, with seminars, classes, workshops and youth activities.

To maximize interaction between artists and the public, the festival is spread around historical and culturally important locations: theatres, museums, galleries, academies, conservatories and parks.

## UK scheme boosts opportunities for Chinese

By Han Manman

Starting May 1, all foreign graduates who hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a recognized advanced educational institution can stay in the UK for one year to work, regardless of their scores.

Applicants can submit their applications while their student visa is valid, along with other relevant materials and application fees, to the Home Office.

The British Minister for Education and Skills (DFES) approved the International Graduates Scheme (IGS) on March 28, which will replace the Science and Engineering Graduates Scheme (SEGS) to provide more opportunities for overseas students seeking post-graduation UK employment.

Student applicants who have left the UK can submit the application within 12 months of graduation, assuming that the student has obtained entry clearance to return to the UK from the British Embassy in their home countries. After working a year in the UK, the student may be eligible to remain there under a visa for technical immigration, high-tech immigration, employment, study or business.

"Foreign students have contributed a lot to the UK economy and social life," Minister for Further and Higher Education Bill Rammell said, "Chinese students make up one of the biggest groups among the foreign students, and their excellent knowledge and skills are welcomed by UK employers. Working in the UK for one year can help students gain experience, and can benefit UK employers as well."

The plan has been welcomed by many well-known UK universities and agencies for overseas study. The policy shows the UK government's support for overseas education and international students, and enables Chinese students to develop their careers in the UK.

A growing number of scholarships offered by UK universities may also benefit Chinese students. Ministry officials expect that the new policy will enhance the UK's overall competence in education, and increase its popularity as a study destination for university-bound Chinese students.

# UNICEF steps up youth AIDS prevention

By Qiu Jiaoning

The UNICEF global campaign, "Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS," has made considerable headway in youth AIDS prevention in China since its launch last year. The number of infected children receiving pediatric treatment rose from 130 in 6 provinces to 621 in 16 provinces, a UNICEF spokesman said Wednesday.

As for the youth prevention and attempts to reduce the stigma, the campaign has helped mobilize society to

support children and young people as a force for change.

According to the statement, over 100 "Unite for Children, Unite against AIDS" youth ambassadors are working in schools and communities to promote "Learn, Share and Care": learning the facts about AIDS, sharing knowledge with friends and family and caring for friends and families affected by AIDS.

"They can help both disseminate information and reduce discrimination toward

the affected and infected," a UNICEF spokesman noted.

"In China, HIV is spreading by 70,000 new cases per year, with most cases in the 20-30-year-old group," according to a UNICEF statement, "Currently, Chinese adolescents have limited knowledge of how HIV is transmitted and of how to protect themselves. Some youths migrate away from rural families to the city, where new survival skills are needed."

The incidence of STI/HIV/AIDS in China is increasing

among young people as the average age of their first sexual encounter decreases.

China has 320 million young people ages 15-24: 20 percent of the world's youth. AIDS prevention efforts in China will have a huge impact on the global fight against AIDS, according to UNICEF. Young people need the support of peers, teachers, parents and communities to learn the facts, prevent HIV infection and promote non-discriminatory attitudes toward the afflicted.

## BEIJING TODAY CEFA Recruitment Notice

《Beijing Today》is the first comprehensive English newspaper published by the 《Beijing Youth Daily》. 《Beijing Today》 covers news and events for English language readers.

Since its founding six years ago, 《Beijing Today》 has won praise from many readers for its fashionable and trendy style. The paper provides a window for the world to see and experience China's capital.

College students are 《Beijing Today》

's most important and most targeted audience. To serve this group and provide more opportunities for them to get published, 《Beijing Today》 has founded a College English Freelancers Association (CEFA). CEFA is recruiting reporters, both writers and photographers.

The CEFA will be divided into groups based on 《Beijing Today》's publication cycle and meeting schedule. Members will be trained in news writing, and will aid 《Beijing Today》's reporters in covering events. Stories written by CEFA members will be polished by both editors and foreign experts, and then published in 《Beijing Today》.

### Application Requirements:

- 1) Be an undergraduate, graduate or foreign student in Beijing
- 2) Have passed the CET4 or higher; no major limitations
- 3) Be interested in English writing and possess an ear for news
- 4) Be responsible and hardworking; have team spirit; sociable.
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# If you have a passion for chorus, join Beijing IFC



Nicholas Smith (foreground), conducts a rehearsal of the Beijing International Chorus and Les Percussions Calviers de Lyon in Zhongshan Park, Wednesday night.  
Photo by Tian Yufeng

By Annie Wei

The rehearsal room at the Beijing Children's Palace has been busy, with 60 or 70 people coming two or three nights a week to prepare for their performance, "Off Off Off-bach," with the famous Les Percussions Calviers de Lyon from France in the Forbidden City Concert Hall on Saturday night.

They are members of the Beijing International Festival Chorus (IFC). Five years ago, Nicholas Smith, a professional British conductor, and singers James Baer and Nancy Fraser decided to set up the chorus because they saw many expats in

town were interested in singing in a chorus. In the past five years, IFC has had many successful performances, ranging from classical Chinese Yellow River cantatas to early European motets. The combination of percussion and choral music should be a new experience for music lovers Saturday night.

Kerry Holahan, an administrative director who joined IFC when it first started, said, "The chorus has become a very high-level one, but its members have different occupations, like diplomats, university students, teachers and business people."

"We have more than 100 people now. A third are Chinese and the others are from different nationalities," Holahan said, "So it's a very international chorus."

To guarantee the chorus's prowess, every member had to pass a strict interview before they are accepted, like Joshua Dominick, who works at an investment firm and has been a member of IFC since last October.

"A friend told me about the chorus. In high school, I played saxophone for many years in a concert band and a jazz band, and I did one year of chorus in college in the

US and one year at Peking University," Dominick said, "I think it's great that lots of people from different backgrounds come together for a common interest. They produce something beautiful."

Currently, the Beijing IFC has a fixed schedule of three performances every year, around Easter, September or October, as well as the first week in December. Many members, like Dominick and Holahan, hope the chorus will have more events in the future. However, as an amateur choral group, producing high-quality performances requires not just passion but commitment.

## Expats kids enjoy Easter in Beijing



Many expat kids, accompanied by their parents, spent a Chinese Easter Day in the Beijing Great Wall Hotel last Sunday. Their faces were painted into different cute animals, as they hunted for Easter eggs hidden in the garden.  
Photo by Tian Yufeng

## Hard drinkers found charity

By He Jianwei

A new NGO founded by a group of young foreigners in Beijing will organize a party to raise money for Chinese street kids this Saturday at Salsa Caribe, the committee members of the new NGO announced Monday night.

Altruistic Alcoholics (Alt-A), founded in late February 2007 by the young foreigners who knew each other from an Internet forum, is focused on street children in China. Saturday's party will be its first big fundraising event.

"We are going to sell T-shirts printed with our logos and collect money at the party. All the money we collect will be given to Xinxing Aid for Street Kids (Xinxing ASK), a non-profit, independent private organization specializing in aid for

street kids based in Baoji, Shaanxi province," Alt-A Vice President Andrew Tait, from the UK, said.

"Guests should wear black and white on Saturday night. There is no cover charge, but it will be 20 yuan for cocktails and 350 yuan for bottles," he said.

The committee includes at least seven foreigners from all over the world, including Belgium, Canada, Australia, the US, Germany, France and the UK. "When we saw a post on an internet forum about one person running into an autistic street kid that he met several years ago, we decided to come together to help street kids in China," American Ginette Balleza, who is in charge of communications, said.

The Internet users on the forum founded an organization in Beijing

called Compassion for Migrant Children (CMC), which is the former name of Alt-A. They announced an open invitation to meet for drinks. If each forum member donated at least the price of one drink, the money they raised could be a contribution to CMC.

"At the first night, we have raised over 600 yuan. In these two months, we have already raised 4,000 yuan," Balleza said.

Plans quickly expanded. "If the members really pull together and do this on a weekly basis, more money can be raised to help the many different NGOs that focus on helping street kids," Balleza said.

"The group came up with the name Altruistic Alcoholics because of our desires to help others and to have a good time," she said.

## Photo exhibition calls for care for rural children

By Chen Shasha

A one-month photo exhibition named "Child's Eye: Photos from Ningxia," with 49 photos showing people's daily lives in rural China, was held in Beijing as the American Red Cross and the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC)'s coordinated project supporting clean water and sanitation in Ningxia came to the end.

Ramsey Rayyis, American Red Cross representative in China, said the photos exhibited were chosen from 3,000 taken by child photographers living in three villages in Ningxia, where the project was carried out. "From those beautiful photos, you could hardly imagine that they never used camera before," Ramsey said. "But even harder to imagine is the hard life behind the smiling photos," Ramsey, who has a seven-year-old child, said.

Ramsey, who has been with the American Red Cross for 15 years, came to China in 2005. When he drove five hours from Yinchuan to Guyuan, a small village in Ningxia, in 2006, he was astonished that the village didn't have fresh water. "All the springs were opened, shared by humans and animals," Ramsey said. In local schools, unhygienic pit toilets were located close to classrooms and dining areas, while soaps and hand washing were almost non-existent. "Due to the consumption of contaminated water, the residents of Ningxia – particularly children – have higher risks of water-borne diseases like cholera and dysentery," Ramsey said. The project with the RCSC to install latrines with water taps in over 17 schools and to promote hygiene

and hand washing among students began last October. "But the harder part is changing people's habits," Ramsey said, "The old generations sometimes find it hard to change, but children can do it."

A related project distributed 200 disposable cameras to fourth, fifth and sixth-graders in the Southern Ningxia region, thus involving children in a creative exercise of self-expression.

The photos will be exhibited in some cafes in Beijing, and later in America, to help collect money to support their next project. Ramsey said a similar water project just started in Shanxi province last month, "but since there are 312 million villagers suffering from water shortages or unsafe water, there's a lot of work to be done, and the lack of money is still a problem" he said.

The donation line of American Red Cross is 6532 7162.



Students in Ningxia cheered after the water-pipe's completion.  
Photo provided by Ramsey Rayyis

### Events

#### Book Club Day Group

A century ago, outsiders saw China as a place where nothing ever changes. Today the country has become one of the most dynamic regions on earth. That sense of time – the contrast between past and present – is brilliantly illuminated by Peter Hessler in *Oracle Bones*, a book that explores the human side of China's transformation.

Where: the Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10:30am-lunch, April 18

Tel: 6432 9341

#### Comedy Show to Benefit Beijing's Magic Hospital

Chopschticks Comedy Tour will bring two top-line American comedians, Paul Provenza and Jamie Kilstein, to Beijing for a special charity show to benefit Magic Hospital. All ticket proceeds go to Magic Hospital.

Where: Theatre of the Beijing City International School, No 77 Baizwan Nan Er Lu, Chaoyang

When: 9pm, April 14

Cost: 220 yuan in advance, 250 yuan at the door

(By He Jianwei)



# Acrobatic troupes, one of the must-sees in Beijing

By Annie Wei

This week, stories I heard about visiting the China National Acrobatic Troupe made me curious about its current status. So I called two of the biggest acrobatic troupes in town and tried to understand what they are doing.

## China National Acrobatic Troupe

As China's largest acrobatic troupe with the most comprehensive programs, China National Acrobatic Troupe (CNAT) performs for diplomatic guests more than a hundred times a year, but seldom opens to public.

The troupe, founded in 1950, can perform a wide variety of acrobatic acts, including aerial acts, comedy routines, vocal imitations and magic. CNAT has about 200 performers, a circus, as well as a magic workshop for magician's training.

However, CNAT told *Beijing Today* that they had no plans for the next public opening. The open day attracted lots of visitors, but only about 100 people were allowed to visit. Li Enjie, the director of CNAT, said they had limited capacity for treating visitors.

Feng Lei, a media staff member from the troupe, said, "We will have a very big event in April. To many Chinese people, acrobatics seems very old-fashioned. At the upcoming event, we will show the audience a new Chinese acrobatics that is bursting with innovation." The coming show will include traditional programs, as well as music, dance,



Members of the China National Acrobatic Troupe were practicing their tricks last Sunday – the first ever public open day.

Photo by Lou Qiyong

drama and kung fu.

To watch CNAT's big performances on April 27, 28 and 29 at the Beijing exhibition center, please call: 6551 6978/79.

## Learning Chinese acrobatics

The Beijing International Arts School, near to CNAT, claims to be the only art school that has the qualifications to recruit foreign students.

The school offers acrobatics, dance, fine arts, performance and martial arts. Students spend half of their time studying and the other half in practicing.

Local and expat students are trained together in the troupe. Currently, there are 40 students from 37 countries in the world, including Russia, France, Spain and Korea. Foreign students are offered Chinese language classes, as well as others like English, math, geography, history and computer science.

The school also offers long term and short-term programs.

For more information about school costs and enrollment, please call 6780 3699 or go to its website: bjia.com.

## Beijing Acrobatic Troupe of China

The Beijing Acrobatic Troupe of China is a local troupe located in Tianqiao, famous for presenting its traditional folk art to the general public. It's said that at the end of the Qing Dynasty, folk artists entertained the public with their acrobatic feats in Tianqiao.

To watch their performances, visit Tianqiao Acrobatic Theater at 5:30pm and 7:15pm any day.

Where: No. 11 Fayuansi Qian Jie, Xuanwu  
Tel: 6351 7200

## Job fair for foreigners to open this weekend

By Chen Shasha

The 2007 Job Fair for foreigners, held by The State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs and The China Association for International Exchange of Personnel, will open at the Beijing Swiss Hotel (Hong Kong Macao Center) this Saturday, with more than 60 Chinese and international companies joining in.

The job fair, one of the largest of its kind in Beijing, had been held for the last five years. It offers a direct channel for foreigners planning to get jobs in China or change occupations.

Olivia Tomlinson, who came from the UK and attended last year's job fair, had dreamed about being able to spend a year or two in Inner Mongolia as an English teacher for a long time, but lacked the information on how to make it happen.

Three schools from Inner Mongolia were at the job fair, and Tomlinson talked to school representatives several times during the day, negotiating and discussing the options that were "on the table." "It's a direct and quick way," she said. This year, job placements are not only

in Beijing, but include Xi'an, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Shenzhen, Zhong Yanguang, one of the organizers of the fair, said.

Zhong said many language training schools, including the New Oriental School, and some Universities, like Tsinghua University, will open booths this year. "But unlike past years, this year's job fair will feature jobs for professionals: not only teachers, but high-tech workers will also be in great need," Zhong said. Many large companies, including P & G, China National Petroleum Corp and CRI, will attend.

Officials from The China Association for International Exchange of Personnel will attend as well, to answer questions about laws and regulations for foreigners working in China.

The fair will be open from 9am-4pm, and will move to Shanghai on April 14.

## Other sources for jobs

The American Chamber of Commerce website, with positions opened for professionals. [chinajob.com](http://chinajob.com)

A China Association for International Exchange of Personnel.

## Booking a parking spot at the Capital Airport

By Gan Tian

This week, the Capital International Airport's official website launched advance online booking for parking spots.

## Booking online

Car owners can log in [bcia.com.cn](http://bcia.com.cn), and then click "booking a parking space" (*tingche yuding*). You should enter your personal information beforehand, as well as choose between parking garages, types of vehicles, floors to park on, and the time and address of your visit.

The system will estimate the cost of your stay, but you still cannot use credit cards or pay online. Airport staff will contact the car owner to confirm the information. After you drive there on the confirmed date, you pay the price and get the parking pass.

The service runs from Monday to Friday. "We suggest car owners book the parking spaces two or three days ahead," a staff member in the press center of the airport said, "But if they are in an emergency, we still can accept one-day ahead booking." This can be helpful for those who often travel.

## Cost details

In parking area one, big vehicles cost five yuan per 30 minutes, and small cars cost 2.5 yuan per 30 minutes. To stay the night, small cars pay 70 yuan for the first day, and 50 yuan per day thereafter. Big ones are 140 yuan for the first day, and 100 yuan per day thereafter.

In area two, big vehicles cost five yuan for the first 30 minutes, but 10 yuan per 30 minutes after the first hour. Small cars enjoy free parking for the first 30 minutes, and pay six yuan per 30 minutes thereafter. To spend the night, small cars have to pay 76 yuan for the first day, and the second day is either 80 yuan per day on floors 1F and 2F, or 50 yuan per day on 1B to 4B. The price of large vehicles is 150 yuan for the first day and 160 yuan per day thereafter.

## For long term renting

If you want to rent a parking spot for a long time, you can pay 180 yuan per day for the big vehicles, or 120 yuan per day for the small ones, for a spot in parking lot one. In lot two, that would run you 280 or 180 yuan per day, depending on car size.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

Can you recommend some nice hotels in a hutong area? My friends back home are visiting me in summer and I think Chinese courtyards will impress them.

You can try the Bamboo Garden Hotel (No 24, Xiaoshiqiao, Jiugulou Jie, Tel: 5852 0088), the Lüsongyuan Hotel (No 22, Banchang Hutong, Kuan Jie, Tel: 6404 0436), the Red Capital Residence ([redcapitalclub.com.cn](http://redcapitalclub.com.cn)) and the Hotel Kapok (No16 Donghuamen Jie, Dongcheng, Tel: 6525 9988). The prices are ok in terms of an average western income, but might be a bit expensive compared to other Chinese hotels. There are a few cheaper hotels now around Nanluoguxiang, Xicheng.

Since there was tension between Confucianism and Buddhism, have there ever been religious wars fought amongst the two sides? If so, what were the results?

The early Tang emperors were very strong Buddhists, yet tolerant of Confucianism. However, during several periods in history, Buddhists were persecuted. It didn't come to war because Buddhists were never an organized military force. Buddhists died for their faith, but they didn't kill for it.

I would like to know more about the traditional Chinese family structure. What was it like within the household?

The traditional structure was much like that of many cultures: oldest male at the head, younger males under him, women subordinated to men. Women left home and joined the extended families of their husbands, subservient to everyone older than themselves, especially to the eldest wife. Rich men often had several wives; poor men often had none.

Hey, I am living around Wudaokou. I am studying in one of the Chinese schools. I think it is great because it's so cheap, but I've also heard bad things about these schools. How can I trust them?

*Beijing Today* interviewed an officer from the exit and entry bureau about the "language schools" boom. There is a major difference between what we call schools and what we call language training centers in China. Schools' set ups have to be approved by the Ministry of Education, while a training center normally is registered through the Commerce and Industry Bureau as a company. Frankly, some training centers in the Wudaokou area do well – they have set up their businesses well and earned a good reputation. Some were reported to local police for cheating students out of their money. So, we suggest you find a school or a reliable training center with a good reputation.

(By Wei Ying)



# A Chinese way to interpret

By Gan Tian

*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, the strangely-titled off-Broadway musical, will have its Chinese debut this month. How do its producers balance pure Broadway taste and Chinese cultural cues? They create some interesting stories in the process.

Are you in love? Are you afraid of proposing to your fiancée? If so, this may be the musical for you. Many want-to-propose-but-dare-not audience members made up their minds to pop the question after watching the magical, and re-titled, *I Love You*. The opening show of Beijing's Fifth International Play Season, off-Broadway's longest-running musical, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* has attracted thousands of audiences at home and abroad. The coming performance is special not only because, for the first time, Chinese actors and actresses will appear as the leading roles, but also because they will take their version to Broadway theaters next month.

The original and Chinese versions both talk about love, they are both from the same director and even the size of the stage is exactly the same. The audience may wonder what the difference is

between the two. "You can see people of different cultures share some things in common, but there still are disconnects between them," Lin Yilun, the leading actor, said.

After the debut in Beijing, the Chinese crew will go to the Westside Theater in New York next month. At the end of June, the Chinese edition of *I Love You* will be back in Beijing's Poly Theater.

## Chinese adaptation

Though maintaining an authentic taste of Broadway, the Mandarin version of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* considers its Chinese audience.

"The musical's title, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, suggests some humor, because it is long and awkward. However, in Chinese, it loses its comic sensibility. That's why it is only three words in the Chinese edition – *I Love*

*You*," said Lin. Chinese audiences are very familiar with this three-word declaration; for some, it was the first English sentence they learned when they were very young, marking an important step towards accepting Western culture.

The original director Joel Bishoff is the director of its Chinese version. Wen Yang, the lead actress, recalled, "The director only played several parts of the original version to us after we had already finished some of the shows." Lin said the director only wanted a brand-new *I Love You*, so the actors and actresses didn't watch the previous versions.

Two parts have been deleted in the Chinese version. One talks about sex. "In some southern parts of America, it isn't played in the theaters either," Lin explained, "I will suggest that we add it back when we act in New York, to let the American audiences say 'Wow – Chinese

people can be so open!"

The part is called "Sex Lawyer," in which a couple is making love to each other, expressed in the theater by sounds, acts and other means. After it's over, the man says, "What do you think? Am I good?" The woman at first agrees, but later can no longer pretend. "You are so bad," she admits. Then a lawyer appears, saying, "Have you ever thought of taking him to court if he cannot satisfy you in bed?" The lawyer is just like a salesman, claiming that "You can have your orgasm paid back." The wife demands the husband to pay her US\$5,000 because he cannot find her G spot, but at last the husband wins US\$10,000, because the wife is unwilling to perform oral sex.

"You can see how it might be suited to American taste, but a Chinese audience would have a hard time with the ideas of suing a family member or talking about



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## Voices

I think this is a stage edition of the film *Love Actually*. Though played on the stage, we feel that it happens to us all. It reminds me that we should always cherish the people around us.

– Luo Xueqing, student at Shanghai International Studies University

The musical has the spirit of Western culture, and at the same time it is very Chinese. This musical really communicates the essence of Broadway to a Chinese audience. Broadway with Chinese characteristics – what could be better!

– Janice Wasons, editor



# t Broadway

th such ease," Lin said. "But it is a very funny topic in the theater. Director deleted this part without any reason, as he knows China."

## ded in translation

he famous Chinese playwright Yu Jun translated the script. "The most difficult part in translation is that you have to be very careful with the rhythm, as Chinese has a lot of lyrics," Yu said, "I did a lot of rewriting work. It is an adaptation as much as a translation." For example, in the phrase "He calls me," there are four syllables. Yu thought about it for a long time, at last deciding to use "ta de hua (it's his call)," four syllables to maintain and suit the rhythm.

In the original lyrics, the word "spaghetti," a delicious, tongue-twisting Italian noodle, made Yu think for quite a while. "I chose to use 'daoxiaomian.' It

is a typical Beijing noodle, and one very difficult to make. Chinese audiences are much more familiar with it."

Some sentences with double-meanings have also been well translated. When the husband is eager to make love to his wife, the original lyric he sings to her goes like "The car is already in the garage." Yu didn't think this made sense in Chinese, and used the familiar, local expression "The bullet is already in the gun."

Yu even added Chinese character games in lyrics. "I am only a '丿' (pie), you are a 'ㄣ' (na), without a baby we can only make a 'ㄥ' (ba), but if you have the baby, we can make a '人' (ren)." This sentence, easily understood by a Chinese audience, perfectly illustrates the original meaning: you and I must have a baby. At the same time, it has been infused with some Chinese elements.

## out the story

*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, has been running on Broadway for more than ten years, and is the longest running small musical. Originally *Love Lemmings*, the musical has only four actors and actresses in the cast. It tells many separate stories of love and the problems with it from different aspects. The lead actor plays 16 different roles, including father, brother, priest and lawyer.

*I Love You* has also been presented in many Asian countries, and in Europe alone has had 4,000 shows. Director Joel Bishoff noted that during the show, many men actually make marriage proposals, and that they are generally accepted.



## I Love You

Where: Capital Theater, No 22 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng; Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: April 17 at the Capital Theater in Beijing, May 9-June 3 in New York, June 20-24 at the Poly Theater in Beijing

Admission: 180-880 yuan  
Tel: 6525 0996 (Capital Theater); 6506 5343 (Poly Theater)



Clockwise from top: Ma Qingli, Lin Yilun, Wen Yang, and Yu Yi  
Photos provided by Entertain Together



# Riddled With Life

## Friendly Worms, Ladybug Sex and the Parasites That Make Us Who We Are

By Marlene Zuk  
pp336, Harcourt, US\$16.50  
(Amazon.com)

Spring colds are miserable. At least during winter, you don't miss out on a warm sunny day. But perhaps it's for the best: if the news is to be believed, avian flu, Ebola and flesh eating bacteria await just outside your door.

Marlene Zuk, an evolutionary biologist, says it may be time to thank those sniffles, and that we're giving germs a worse rep than they deserve.

As long as there has been life, parasites have attached themselves to it. Zuk suggests that rather than thinking of viruses, parasites and other troublemakers as "out to get us," we should think of them as unwanted, distant family members: "We do not choose to have them, but our lives are unimaginable without them, and for better or worse, they have made us who we are," she writes.

Dis-eases, open sores



Marlene Zuk, an evolutionary biologist, picks apart the world of disease, bacteria, fungi and parasites, and their relationship with us that's sometimes too close for comfort, raising serious questions for anyone supporting in-utero genetic fixes.

and parasites are the natural state for any organism, she said, and the current quest for cleanliness is a fantasy. To wipe out germs would be, she said, a victory that would wipe us out as well.

If you're left scratching your head for an idea about how parasites have affected your life, look no further than a bedroom romp with your significant other. Males and females would not exist without parasites, she said. Sexual reproduction evolved specifically to improve resistance to disease. Without parasites, we would divide and sprout a new person out of our sides.

Taking an evolutionary approach, Zuk asks the question "why has evolution dropped the ball on humans?" It seems like every other species has it easy while we suffer diabetes, arthritis, sickle-cell

anemia and cystic fibrosis. We have more teeth than our jaw can hold, and any mother will tell you birthing a child is no picnic.

We're not alone. Natural selection didn't produce disease, but "has made [our] bodies vulnerable to them for a variety of reasons," she writes. Any gene which has good effects for a human up through their peak in reproductive years is generally considered "good" – at least from the evolutionary perspective.

Zuk picks apart the world of disease, bacteria, fungi and parasites, and their relationship with us that's sometimes too close for comfort, and raises serious questions for anyone supporting in-utero genetic fixes.

### Humorous and intriguing

*Riddled With Life* is riddled with wonderful bits of humor, intriguing facts and some of the best scientific writing. I have to admit that the biology was a struggle for me but that didn't take away from the reading experience.

– Kate McNeill, *Blogcritics Magazine*

### Science made accessible

Zuk has an amazing gift for turning experiments and facts into stories. The chapter on sexually transmitted diseases is perhaps my favorite in the book.

– Jason B Jones, *PopMatters*

(By Derrick Sobodash)

## A Good Life Without Purpose

By Annie Wei

The popularity of *Wumudi Meihao Shenghuo* (*A Good Life Without Purpose*, China Friendship Publishing House, 25 yuan) comes mainly from its author: Hong Huang, one of Sina.com's top bloggers and publisher of iLook, Seventeen and Timeout.

The book collects 71 of Hong's articles divided in five categories: attitudes on life, family gossip, "Ask Me," blogs and "them and us." Although it's easy to read her articles on her blog, many readers said they bought the book because they enjoyed her writing style.

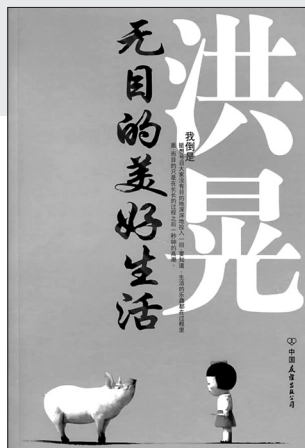
Hong is a reader favorite for her sharp, incisive and direct writing, with a touch of the ruffian and lots of Chinese humor heaped on top.

"Many people devote themselves entirely. We devote ourselves to friendship for the relationship; we devote ourselves

to love to possess something; we devote ourselves to art to find fame. I've tried these, but in the end, the pursuit is always more interesting than the result," she wrote in her first article.

Humor and self-jeering permeate Hong's articles. In the first chapter on life, "Xiaonuren de Fuqi" (The Luck of Being a Small Woman, a woman who seems weak and dependent), she wrote, "Since I was little, my family trained me to be a big woman. In Chinese, the term means to be independent, to have dignity and to be kind. I lived my life the way they taught. Even now, I find it's rather impractical."

"Big women are always at a disadvantage in male and female relationships. I used to have an assistant in the 1980s. She was a dancer from a Wengongtuan, the song and dance ensemble of a state-owned organization. She



later worked as an assistant in foreign companies for a living. When she first came to the office, most people looked down on her. They thought she was over-dressed and spoke poor English. But soon they found she had something nobody else had: she could meet clients that others couldn't, as long as they were male. She had long black hair. One day, she was on the train with potential clients. She

combed her hair for two hours, chewed gum and sang. After that, they were our clients."

"I didn't learn that in business class. First, I didn't know how to baby-talk on the phone. If a client didn't want to meet me, I thought it was because they didn't know how to appreciate an independent woman who was educated abroad. I believed that my career would be promising because my boss was an American who graduated from Harvard. He must recognize how hard-working and professional I am! But soon, my assistant was promoted. Three months later, the Wengongtuan girl married the boss."

Hong's barbed mockery targets people who were, like her, educated abroad, who view themselves as "the world's elite." She pokes jabs at the small things the mass media plays up as a "high-class lifestyle," from expensive cars to skinny models.

Lots of fun and humor is lost in translation from Chinese to English. To enjoy Hong, you really need to read her in Chinese. As long as your reading ability is above a second-grade elementary school student's, her book shouldn't be a problem.

## Cuckoo Bookstore Recommendations

By Annie Wei

Cuckoo Bookstore store is located on the ground floor of the World Trade Center. It offers a huge selection of books in English, especially ones about art and design. Du Pengpeng, the head of the bookstore, recommends three upcoming releases.

### Spa Design



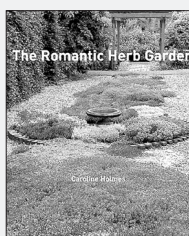
383pp, d a a b - online.com, 288 yuan

"Day spas are 'the place to be' when it comes to relaxing and regener-

ating. The basic components of a good spa are various saunas, a pool, at least two treatment rooms and a relaxation area that offers enough room so that guests don't disturb each other," he said.

"The book offers readers further proof of just how multifaceted and unique spas can be. One characteristic of more innovative complexes are a regional flavor that incorporates customized construction and styles – such as Moorish or Middle Eastern," Du said.

### The Romantic Herb Garden

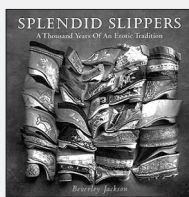


By Caroline Holanes, 160pp, Universe Publishing, 150 yuan

"This book gives a refresh-

ing approach to everything you need to know about successfully using, choosing and designing an herb garden. It showcases the many kinds of herbs – ornamental, household, culinary and medicinal – that you can plant, and provides detailed and imaginative, but low-cost, ways to use the herbs," Du said.

### Splendid Slippers – A Thousand Years of Erotic Tradition



By Beverly Jackson, 183pp, Ten Speed Press, 240 yuan

For 26 years, the peripatetic Beverly Jackson has been a photo-journalist, newspaper columnist, civic leader, Asian art collector, textile scholar, lecturer and bon vivant. "She writes with the same lively curiosity and good-humored sense of humanity that she brings to every aspect of her life. Her book explores the facts and fiction surrounding Chinese women, especially the ancient custom of breaking and binding the feet into the shape of a pointed lotus bud," Du said.



# Otaku Obsessive love at home

By He Jianwei

I'm a bit of an *otaku*. I have to admit it, after my interviews with three *otaku*.

Maybe you are one too. Did you ever stay indoors, an obsessive fan of one particular hobby?

The word *otaku* is derived from the honorific Japanese term for another's house or family. It can also be used as an honorific second-person pronoun.

In modern Japanese slang, it refers to an obsessive fan of any one theme, topic or hobby. Common uses are *anime otaku*, for anyone obsessed with watching cartoons without rest, *manga otaku*, fans of Japanese comic books, *pasokon otaku*, or PC geeks, and *gēmu otaku*, video game addicts.

While these are the most common *otaku*, the word can be applied to anything, even music *otaku*, martial arts *otaku* and cooking *otaku*.

Influenced by Japanese pop culture, China has *otaku* too. This week, *Beijing Today* interviewed three of them.



## Korean drama otaku

"I follow the latest Korean dramas every day after my work," Zhao Xiaochuan, a teacher at Beijing City University, said.

When she was a college student, she became obsessed with Korean dramas. She usually downloads the latest shows from the Internet using BitTorrent, eMule or other download managers.

"I could stay at home the whole weekend watching Korean dramas and not eat a real meal for two days. I just munch on cookies and drink water," she said.

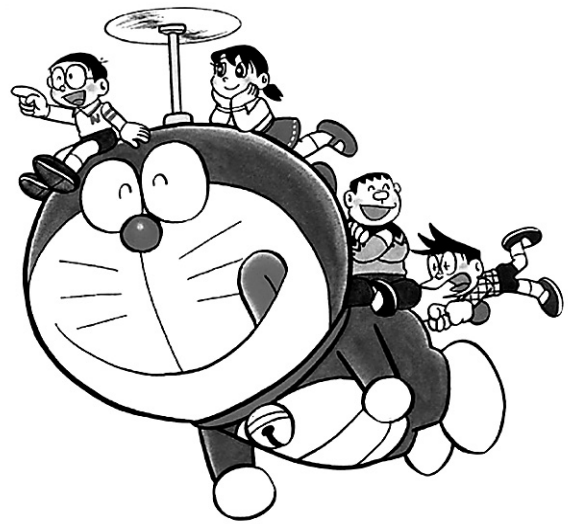
Tissues are another thing she always has on hand. "Most Korean dramas are about sentimental

love, and are always tear-jerking stories," she said.

Aside from watching dramas, she collects anything related to her beloved shows. When *Palace* aired last year, the bear toys in the drama grabbed her attention. "They are so cute! They wear the same clothes as the actors and actresses in the drama. As soon as I saw them, I knew I had to buy them," she said.

She finally bought them on taobao.com. "Every time I look at them, I can't help but remember the story of *Palace*," she said.

"Maybe I'm just addicted to the love depicted in Korean drama: I can hardly find love like that in reality. Dramas are the next best escape," she said.



## Anime otaku

"The cartoon *Doraemon* was my best friend during childhood. I was attracted to his free-wheeling style and goofy expressions," Bai Yang, a Chinese student studying medical science at Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan, said.

Doraemon is a cat-like robot from the 22nd century. His favorite food is *dorayaki*, a sweet, bean paste filled bun. His birth date is September 3, 2112, and he is also known as "Ding-dong."

"He weighs 129.3 kilograms and is 129.3 centimeters tall. He can leap 129.3 centimeters and run at 129.3 kilometers per hour," Bai said, showing off his knowledge of the character. "He is afraid of mice and hates rats, because his ears were eaten off by rats. That's the reason he's blue."

Doraemon has a pocket on

his chest from which he can take out amazing tools, Bai continues. He was originally sent back to the 20th century because Nobita's grandson couldn't bear to see his grandfather suffer, so he sent Doraemon to help out.

"Every child wishes he could have a cat like this as his or her friend, because Doraemon can deal with any problem using his magical tools," he said.

Bai stays at home most of the time, scouring the net for anything and everything related to Doraemon. He has collected many dolls of Doraemon and Dorami, Doraemon's little sister. "She's not blue because her ears weren't bitten off by rats," he said.

"I found it is difficult to make friends with the Japanese people here, so I prefer to stay home with my Doraemon," he said.



## Gēmu otaku

"Final Fantasy makes my life more interesting," Zhou Pei, a junior at Northwest University of Political Science and Law, said.

His first brush with Final Fantasy wasn't the game, but the CG movie, *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within*. "The boldness of the characters attracted me a lot. I've always been a junkie for adventure and science fiction," he said.

When he first tried out the game, he found it impossible to escape its pull. "I played it my entire summer vacation. Sometimes, at night, I would dream that I was the main character," he said.

Zhou lives with his parents and rarely talks with his classmates. "The only thing I pay attention to in the news is information about upcoming *Final Fantasy* releases. I don't know how to talk with anyone about things except *Final Fantasy*," he said.

Aside from purchasing every installation in the series, he also tracked down the original game soundtracks. "I believe the music in it is better than in any other games," he said.





## Shopping



### Book discount

All books at Beijing Book Building (17 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng) will be 20 percent off until April 14. For details, call 6607 8477.



### Men's clothing

Men's brand Jack & Jones's products will be 50 percent off at the Grand Pacific shopping mall (133 Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng) until April 18. For details, call 6612 6888.



### 100 yuan discount

Spend over 200 yuan at Parkson shopping center (189 Dong Sihuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang) and enjoy a 100 yuan discount until April 15. For details, call 8795 7788.



### Mattress discount

Professional mattress brand Slumberland's products will be 22 percent off at their chain store around Beijing until April 15. For details, call 8736 6714.



### HOZ discount

Men's clothing brand HOZ will be 20-35 percent off at Jin Yuan Yan Sha shopping mall (1 Yuanda Lu, Haidian) until April 15. For details, call 8887 4611.



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## Restaurant



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Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, is offering savings of up to 60 percent on rooms and a special deal for Golden Circle members as part of its Golden Week rates promotion.

Available at 23 Shangri-La and Traders hotels in China including in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the special rates are valid from April 28 to May 6. For details, call 800 852 5900.



### Pizza discount

Seniors over 65 years old can enjoy half price at Origus Pizza restaurant around Beijing until the end of the month. For details, call 800 810 1589.

## Others



### Tulip show

Spend only 10 yuan and enjoy the Ninth International Tulip Show at the Tulip Garden (Jianzhan Dongwei Lu, Chaoyang) until April 15. For details, call 8433 7800.

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### Swimming Lessons

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What can help when we are gaining weight? Swimming!

How can we get a release when we are feeling frustrated? Swimming!

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CTS HOTEL BEIJING hosts one of the capital's most popular health clubs. There is a heated indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam bath and Jacuzzi. The thoughtfully remodeled leisure complex features a state-of-the-art gymnasium. The Ballet room features varieties of training courses like Body Shaping, Yoga Postures, Traditional Taijiquan, and Step Aerobic Dance. The professional fitness trainers here can help individuals maximize their health and fitness benefits by capitalizing on the preventative powers of exercise. Competitive and attractive membership packages are available for your selection.



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# Let us eat cake!

By Gan Tian

It does not have to be Valentine's Day for you to have a reason to celebrate. In this issue, Center Stage focuses on "I Love You." So this week, we're devoting two pages to cakes!



## Angel's Delight Cake

Where: 1351, Building 13, Jianwai Soho, Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang  
Tel: 5869 3161, 5869 3162



## Meinila Cake

Where: No 97, Xibianmen Nei Daijie, Xuanwu  
Tel: 6316 6805

Editors: Yu Shanshan Qiu Jiaoning Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY



## Comptoirs de France Bakery

## Sweet-tooths beware



## Tour Les Jours: South Korean bakery

By Chu Meng

The Korean community in Wudaokou is served by a number of excellent Korean eateries, with Tous Les Jours and Czen among them.

Operated by CJ, the largest food company in Korea, Tous Les Jours and Czen both produce healthy, fresh-made flour-based foods. The former is a bakery, and the latter is a noodle bar.

Tous Les Jours means "every day" in French, and the name expresses the bakery's commitment to making fresh bread every day. Unlike traditional small and medium-sized bakeries, which mostly operate in residential areas, Tous Les Jours is a larger roadside bakery. It sells breads and cakes, along with coffee, beverages, sandwiches and ice cream. The shop looks cozy, bathed in warm sunlight, and the fragrant aroma of flour and butter in the air is exquisite.

Modern in style, Tous Les Jour offers a wide selection of breads, sandwiches and drinks, with an average price of five yuan per bread item, which makes it an excellent place to have breakfast or afternoon tea.

While the fourth outlet of Tous Les Jours began operating in August in the basement of the Beijing Junefield Sogo Department Store, Czen has only one shop, neighboring the Wudaokou outlet of Tous Les Jours.

Czen features several innovative and attractive noodle items, such as green tea noodles and pumpkin noodles, but they also serve Asian favorites such as Thai fried rice.

Diners appreciate the delicious taste of Czen's noodles, pumpkin salad and Korean fruit wine, while industry insiders often focus on the healthfulness of the ingredients in these enticing dishes. Green tea, pumpkin, carrot, seaweed, black bean and herb and garlic noodles are available in a vibrant array of colors, and provide various types of nutrition.

For western diners, cheese and salad dressings are added to some rice dishes, creating something delightfully different.

#### Tour Les Jours

**Branch one:** No 9 Wangjing Lu, 1/BF Huatang Shopping Mall, Chaoyang  
Tel: 5920 3138

**Branch two:** No 35 Chengfu Lu, Haidian (200 meters west of the Wudaokou light railway station)

Tel: 6256 0783

**Branch three:** No 3 Maizidian Xi Lu, 1/F Hengji International Plaza, Chaoyang

Tel: 8458 0255

Open: 10am-10pm

Cost: 20 yuan per person



## Alpha Bakery: Taiwanese style

By Chu Meng

Beijing's new gourmet goldmine is not to be found in the proliferating Houhai bar district, nor the glorified likes of Oriental Plaza at SOHO Newtown. A new and upcoming hot spot for restaurants and specialty stores is Liangmaqiao Lu, where Alpha Bakery has opened its doors.

Alpha bakery is part of a chain with stores in the US, Japan and now China. Opened by experienced Taiwanese baker and business man Chen Zezhen, 60, this bakery features European hard breads and Taiwanese sweet buns, as well as cakes, teas, coffee and ice cream.

"Our bakery is for the gourmet; all our flour and other ingredients for the European hard breads like the Raisin Walnut bread or Bavarian Farmer's Rye is imported from Germany," Chen explained. "Our oven is the first deck oven in Beijing. This oven consists of three levels and is constructed from volcanic rock, ideal for production of bread."

The European breads are baked fresh daily in the kitchen, which is in full view of visitors and customers – cooks can be seen icing cakes, packaging breads and using giant wooden forks

to slide fresh bread from the deck ovens.

I tried the Raisin Walnut Bread (26 yuan a loaf), the bubble tea, the strawberry juice, the Alpha Bread (16 yuan a loaf), the store's specialty, and the curry buns (5 yuan each). The European breads were delicious.

The owner, who is also the head chef, brought baking experience with him to Beijing; now, he is showing the city how desserts should be done. No more dry pre-made cakes waiting for cream decorations. Sweets are pleasantly presented atop chocolate carved tables beside cream-colored couches in a cozy setting.

There are sample dishes on the menu with three cakes to choose from. I had hoped the biscuit bottom would be denser and contrast the sweetness of the base and topping, but the bittersweet flavor complemented the potent Lavazza espresso.

#### Alpha Bakery

Where: No 46, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang. (200 meters east of the Kempinski Hotel)

Tel: 8440 1300

Open: 7am-9:30pm

Cost: 4-30 yuan per loaf of bread, 60 yuan for a set-serving for two (a pastry and coffee each)





# Blemish on the fashion record

By Han Manman

Girls would say the secret to a beautiful face is skin care and cosmetics. They believe makeup and expensive products are the route to beauty and cleanliness. The cosmetics advertising industry, salespeople, brochures and "editorial" fashion articles would agree.

But these are distorted and inaccurate explanations about skin care and makeup. It turns out the money we've shelled out has nothing to do with how our skin looks, and in fact, makes our skin problems even worse.

Zhang Chun is an attractive office lady who cares very much about her skin. Every month, she spends a third of her pay on skin care. She has over 50 creams and facial products in her bedroom. Recently, she's noticed fatty deposits around her eyes and acne creeping onto her face, which she never had in the past. She bought even more anti-acne products to cover it up, but her skin only grew worse.

## Signs of extreme 'care'

Zhang Chun fried her skin by caring for it too much. Many skin problems are caused by the products used to prevent them. Overly emollient moisturizers can clog pores, and temporary face-lift products cause wrinkles because of their irritant properties. Sometimes, allergic reactions are triggered by products that are too irritating, too drying, too thick and creamy or that contain plant extracts and oils.

**There are four signs you may be punishing your skin:**

1. Fatty deposits or acne suddenly appear around your eyes when you do not have your period.
2. You notice light-colored splotches on your face that were never there before.
3. The skin has a prickly feeling, and even a light touch can trigger the sensation.
4. Your face peels and turns red when in sunlight or an air-conditioned room.

## Know your skin type

Different skin types have different needs. Know your skin type before selecting any potentially harsh products. **The five main types are:**

**Type 1: Oily** – Oily skin tends to be shiny and has enlarged pores. It is prone to blackheads and blemishes, and has some tightness.

**Type 2: Combination/normal** – This type has medium-sized pores, a smooth and even texture, good circulation, a healthy color, and may be dry on the cheeks and oily in the T-zone.

**Type 3: Sensitive** – Sensitive skin tends to be thin and delicate with fine pores. It flushes easily, is prone to broken capillaries, is frequently allergic and can easily develop rashes.

**Type 4: Dry** – Dry skin feels tight, especially after cleansing, and has fine wrinkles, flaking and red patches. In non-white women, the skin may appear ashy or dull from dead cell buildup.

**Type 5: Aging or sun-damaged** – This type is tight, and has visible wrinkles and a slack tone – especially around the cheeks and jawline – with a leathery texture and broken capillaries.

Kicking skin while it's down

### Overuse of makeup

Makeup products often contain irritants. For the sake of long-term skin health, it is best to use makeup in moderation, especially around your eyes. Long-lasting makeup may be more harmful, because it tends to contain harsher chemicals and requires highly irritating solvents for its removal.

### Overuse of skin care products

Indiscriminate use of multiple skin care products may have significant drawbacks. First, some products are simply ineffective: not only are they a waste of money, but they may also prevent optimal absorption of effective products. Second, some contain low-level, long-term skin damaging ingredients. Many products with scientifically proven skin benefits, such as retinoids and vitamins, may cause irritation and damage if misused or overused. Be selective with what you put on your face. Time spent on research will not only save money, but may help avoid unnecessary damage.

### Excessive cleansing

Some skincare activities may do more harm than good when misused or overused. Excessive cleansing strips the skin of protective sebum, and may cause dryness, skin sensitivity and other problems. Avoid using harsh detergents and alcohol-based solutions. Alcohol-based cleansers or toners may be useful for people with very oily skin, but are too drying for anyone else. Avoid washing your skin with hot water, and cleansing or washing it more than twice a day.

### Excessive exfoliation

Occasional exfoliation may be useful: it refreshes the skin's surface, increases circulation and brightens appearance. However, exfoliation is potentially damaging: it is controlled destruction that strips off the top layer of the skin. Ideally, you remove only dead cells on the skin's surface, but aggressive or frequent exfoliation can damage living cells. This can produce long-term damage and exhaust the skin's ability to regenerate.

## Tips for healthy skin

Overall, skin depends on your overall health: illness prevention, proper medical care, good hygiene, good nutrition and a positive attitude make all the difference. The fewer products you use on your skin, the better – the more you use, the greater your chances of allergic reactions.

Yang Rongya, a doctor in Beijing Military General Hospital's dermatology section, suggests the following to keep your skin looking its best:

1. **Never go to bed with make-up on:** Make-up left on overnight clogs the pores and prevents skin cells from shedding, which may cause blemishes and blackheads. Skin needs to be able to breathe over night.
2. **Avoid sunlight:** The most important thing you can do for your face is avoid sunlight or at least use liberal amounts of sunscreen. Sunlight causes the skin to age and raises the likelihood of developing skin cancer – the most common cancer in humans.
3. **Sleep:** Beauty needs rest and a balanced diet. The needs of skin change: during the day, it needs protection from the environment, and at night, it is needs a environment where it can regenerate.
4. **Diet:** Diet plays a big role in the long-term condition of your skin. Poor nutrition promotes swelling, which is bad for circulation and prevents oxygen from getting to the cells.
5. **Circulation:** Poor circulation is related to many skin problems. If you can't get enough blood, oxygen and nutrients to the skin, it can't stay healthy.
6. **Water:** Don't forget fluids: you need lots of water. If you have a wound or sore, you can lose more than a liter of water per day as part of the healing process.
7. **Physical Health:** Fevers increase the risks of skin breakdown. They change your metabolism, alter skin tolerance and lower your body's resistance. They also shunt your body's disease-fighting resources to areas where they're most needed, which is likely not to be your skin. If you fall ill, all of your body's systems can be affected.
8. **Mental Health:** Mental health also affects your skin. If you're stressed or depressed, you may not pay as close attention to skin care as you should.
9. **Chlorine and hot water:** Hot showers and baths feel great, but your skin may disagree. The hotter the water, the greater the damage: the rate of chemical reactions increases with temperature. Limit baths and showers to once a day or less, and don't soak for too long. Make it warm, not hot.

CFP Photo



# Beijing's flower valleys

Beijing's suburban areas are dotted with flower valleys. *Beijing Today* picked four places, each a natural carpet of apricot, rose and peach or magnolia blossoms. If you want to escape to a place where flowers outnumber people. Check them out!

## Peach blossom valley

By Huang Daohen

"Peach Blossom Valley" was a legendary land described by Chinese writer Tao Yuanming during the Eastern Jin Dynasty (AD317-420). It refers to a place completely isolated from the rest of the world, where people live a simple, pastoral life.

For centuries, people considered it an imaginary place. Real or not, *Beijing Today* has dug up several similar suburban get-aways where you can spend your spring weekend.

### The valley

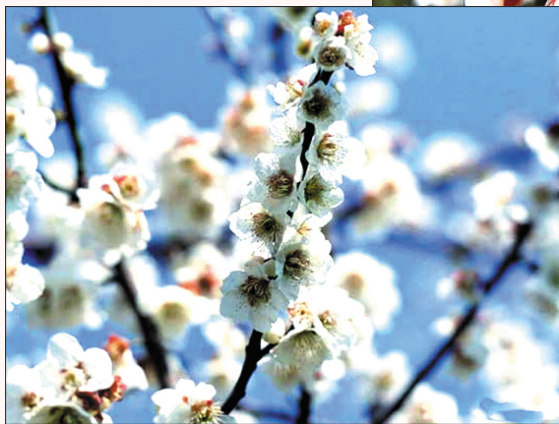
Though plum blossoms in their natural splendor are not easy to find in urban Beijing, a valley in Changping District has a curious surprise. An elderly couple moved to a remote ravine there ten years ago and opened Plum Blossom Valley, the biggest place in the capital where you can view plum blossoms.

Even now, the couple breeds

the best time to enjoy them, with the season tapering off in early May.

The valley introduces new species every year, and Zhao plans to add 20 from Japan and Shandong this year.

"When you compare it to the 270 types of Plum in the world, the valley's selection may seem feeble, but it's incredible to see so many in Beijing," one visitor says.



trees, and has planted more than 5,000 trees from 1,000 species.

The couple, Zhao Yugui and Ma Yuping, are affectionately known by visitors as the masters of the valley. Zhao and Ma gave up their comfortable city life ten years ago and moved out to the village, where they built a cabin and a home-made windmill to generate electricity, and planted grass and trees.

"As long as visitors come and play in the valley, we'll keep making friends," Ma says - she prefers to think of the valley as a family.

### Plum blossoms and wine

The valley stuns visitors with a mountain full of plum blossoms. There are over 20 species of plum blossoms, and Ma says now is

ing in the north, they knew nothing about raising trees. That's when Chen Junyu, an academician from the Chinese Academy of Science known as "the father of plum blossoms," heard their story and decided to help the couple realize their dream.

The valley's home-made plum blossom wine isn't to be missed when visiting. Last year, Zhao picked up a Japanese wine recipe, which uses the blossom as a main ingredient.

The feeling of sipping a cup of plum wine in the middle of a sea of springtime blossoms is indescribable, a visitor says, "The taste is excellent, and better yet, the wine won't make you drunk."

### Getting there

It's convenient to drive there yourself, though there is no direct bus line. Start from north Fourth Ring Road, and drive along Beiyuan Lu, Litang Lu to Daliushu Loop. Turn north and head to Xing Shou Town, where the valley is located. The road signs will show you the way.

### Cost

Tickets to the valley cost 10 yuan per person. Meals made personally made by Ma are cheap, and range from 5 to 6 yuan each.

### Travelers' suggestions

There are eight dogs loose in the valley for protection. Though they don't bite people unprovoked, you should still exercise caution around them.

If you visit the valley, it's better to stop by the nearby Yinshan Tallinn, the "Pagoda Forest on Mount Yinshan," in the morning and enjoy the plum blossoms in the afternoon.

For housing, the Yinshan Tallinn offers some rooms. Call 8972 6521 to check for vacancies.

## Plant roses in Rose Valley

By Zhang Nan

Rose Valley is a great romantic get-away for lovers looking for somewhere different. Rose Valley is located on the far side of Miaofeng Mountain in Mentougou District. The green mountain, waterfalls, reservoirs and roses have made Rose Valley famous in Beijing since 1950s.

The mountain around Rose Valley is igneous rock and plenty of springs and plants dot its hard surface. On the way to the valley, you will pass four reservoirs; there are two more in the valley, and three waterfalls. "There is plenty of water in Rose Valley: something seldom seen in Beijing," Dong Yiping, manager of Rose Valley Scenic Resort, said.

"Although Rose Valley has gained in fame since the 1950s, development never caught on until last year," Dong said, "Because of the rich coal mines in Mentougou District, the government has put a lot of effort into developing

the local mining industry. Only last year did our district government start to push for tourism."

Dong said the roses thinned out since local farmers started grazing sheep. "We're planting more roses in the valley now. Anyone is welcome to come here and plant more," Dong said.

"Roses represent love and romance. To come to Rose Valley for a holiday of planting roses will be an interesting attraction for young couples, I think. I suggest



people come here as early as possible, because the best time to plant roses is before mid-April," Dong said.

Aside from roses, Rose Valley abounds with Chinese prickly ash. The workers at the Rose Valley Scenic Resort pickle chicken wings with prickly ash and spring water, and provide tourists with a tasty barbecue buffet. "Some people come to Rose Valley every week for the chicken wings," Dong said.

### Getting there

There is no direct bus to Rose Valley, but you can drive there yourself or take a taxi. If you take a taxi, it is about 30 kilometers from the Pingguoyuan subway station on line 1.

Address: No 1, Dagou Village, Miaofeng Town, Mentougou District

Tel: 6188 4600, 6884 6774

### Cost

Ticket: 20 yuan

Admission plus buffet barbecue: 50 yuan per person

Admission plus one-night stay and three meals: 100 yuan per person

Photos provided by Rose Valley Scenic Resort

(Continued on Page 21...)



# Forest of apricot blossoms

(... continued from Page 20)

## Magnolia blossoms in Dajue Temple

By Huang Daohen

For small magnolia lovers in Beijing, there's good news: the annual Magnolia Fragrance Festival is now underway at Dajue Temple, a historic Buddhist shrine outside Beijing with a thousand-year history.

Dajue Temple, also called the Temple of Enlightenment, is nestled at the foot of Yangtai Hill in Beijing's western suburbs. The flower festival will run through April 30, and focuses on the beautiful magnolia flower, a member of the magnolia family, along with cultural events and various travel promotions.

The temple is best known for its magnolia trees, planted almost 300 years ago. There are many flowers and trees in the courtyards, the finest being the magnolias. According to an old legend, a monk brought two of the specimens from Sich-

uan and the Temple of Universal Grace sitting atop the mountain makes for beautiful scenery. The principal structures in the temple are typical of traditional Chinese Buddhist architecture. The roof and halls date from the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

### Getting there

To get to Dajue Temple, take the Badaling Highway north and get off at Beianhe. Then take Beiqing Road to a T-junction and turn right to head to the temple. Check signposts along the way.

Bus 346 from the Summer Palace will also get you to Beianhe Nankou, which is two kilometers from the temple.

### Cost

Admission: 10 yuan

For a two-bed suite in the nearby villa, you can



expect to shell out around 380 yuan (US\$48) per day. Some entertainment facilities are included.

### Contact

Temple: 6245 6163 (Chinese only)

Villa: 6248 1188 (Chinese only)

By Zhang Nan

In northern China, apricot blossoms bloom sooner than peach or pear, and signal spring's approach. Early spring is a nice time for viewing apricot blossoms.

The seventh Apricot Blossom Festival, jointly organized by Fenghuangling Scenic Park and Che'erying Folk Culture Village in Haidian District, kicked off last week. Along the southern base of Fenghuangling Mountain, which connects with Che'erying Folk Culture Village, is an almond forest of more than 99 acres. At the end of every March and early April, when apricot blossoms bloom, the forest is an ocean of white and pink.

You can even smell the fragrant blossoms from far away.

"Because of the low temperature this spring, the apricot blossoms are blooming later than usual," a worker in Fenghuangling Scenic Park says. "This year, the says after Qing Ming Festival will be the best for apricot blossom-viewing."

But the blooming period for apricot blossom is short: ten days at most. The worker says visitors should arrive before the middle of April.

Che'erying Folk Culture



Village is one of the organizers of this year's Apricot Blossom Festival. It located at the foot of the Fenghuangling Mountain, and offers a place to view blossoms that doesn't involve climbing a mountain.

Full of courtyards, twisting stone paths and orchards, the village has a unique flavor. Visitors to the orchards are free to pick apricots, walnuts, mulberries, cherries and Chinese chestnuts.

"People can view apricot blossoms in the village, because it connects with the mountain. There are also several tourist sites worth visiting in the village," Zhang Hanyong, tourism manager from the Che'erying Folk Culture Village, says, "Visitors can also dine and live with local families in our village. We have dozens of facilities prepared for receiving guests."

### Host recommended

#### Claim a fruit tree

If you're looking for something interesting, try claiming a tree. For 200 to 500 yuan, you can claim your own tree this spring, and come back in summer to pick its fruits. You can also participate in its daily care, and do things like watering it, hoe up weeds and thinning out its flowers and fruits.

#### Fishing and grilling

The village offers fishing and grilling. The rainbow trout pulled out of the nearby water are an excellent-tasting fresh-

water fish. Almost every restaurant in the village offers grilled trout.

#### Dine and live in locals

Eat local foods and live with local families to get a taste of life in rural Beijing.

### Recommended local families

#### Liu Lanying's home

Food provided: rural home dishes, barbecue

Tel: 6240 0508

Cost: 50 yuan or more

#### Zhao Limei's home

Food provided: rural home dishes barbecue, and roast lamb chops and cheeks

Tel: 6248 5824

Cost: 50 yuan and up

#### Zhang Qiaohua's home

Food provided: rural home dishes, barbecue

Feature: heated kang

Tel: 6248 2599

Cost: 50 yuan and up

### Getting there

Take the No 346 bus from the Summer Palace and get off at Niegezhuang. Stop here to head to Che'erying Folk Culture Village, or take the bus to the end of the line to reach Fenghuangling Scenic Park. Tickets are 2.5 yuan.

### Contact

Fenghuangling Scenic Park: 6245 5933

Che'erying Folk Culture Village: 6240 5084, 6246 8677

Photos provided by Che'erying Folk Culture Village



# Dancer in the Dark



## Starring:

Björk, Catherine Deneuve, David Morse, Peter Stormare, Cara Seymour

## Synopsis:

Selma is a Czech immigrant, a single mother working in a factory in rural America. Her salvation is her passion for music, specifically, the all-singing, all-dancing numbers found in classic musicals. Selma harbors a sad secret: she is losing her eyesight and her son Gene stands to suffer the same fate if she can't put away enough money to secure him an operation. When a desperate neighbor falsely accuses Selma of stealing his savings, the drama of her life escalates to a tragic finale.

## Scene 1: Selma's house, night

(Bill visits Selma at her trailer and they confide their troubles to one another.)

**Selma:** Come in. Something up, Bill?

**Bill:** No, no, I just couldn't sleep, that's all. I have no money. All the money that I inherited is ... It's gone. And Linda ... Linda ... She spends and spends. And my salary's nowhere near enough. I can't say no to her. The bank's gonna repossess the house ... because I'm so far behind on the payments<sup>(1)</sup>. And I'm gonna lose Linda. I know it. I know I am.

**Selma:** She loves you, Bill. Oh, don't cry.

**Bill:** I shouldn't have told you.

**Selma:** Don't worry.

**Bill:** Shouldn't have told you.

**Selma:** It's okay. Don't worry.

**Bill:** No, I think you've got enough ... stuff.

**Selma:** Would it make you feel better if I told you a secret?

**Bill:** What secret could you tell me?

**Selma:** I'm going blind. Not yet, but ... Soon, maybe sometime this year.

**Bill:** Blind?

**Selma:** It's not as bad as it sounds. It's, uh ... It's a family thing<sup>(2)</sup>.

**Bill:** But, blind?

**Selma:** I've always known it. From when I was a little girl, I knew.

## Scene 2: Bill's house, afternoon

(Selma finds the money in her box is gone and goes to Bill's house to try to take it back.)

**Linda:** Gene hasn't come back yet.

**Selma:** I need to talk to Bill.

**Linda:** He decided to take the day off<sup>(3)</sup> to go to the bank for his box.

**Selma:** Is he—is he upstairs?

**Linda:** Yeah. I know everything,

Selma. Bill told me. I want you to move out!

**Selma:** I—I don't understand. What would you know?

**Linda:** That you came on to him<sup>(4)</sup>. That you asked him into the trailer<sup>(5)</sup>, but he turned you down<sup>(6)</sup>! ... You've got nothing to say for yourself?

**Selma:** No. I want to talk to Bill.



## Scene 3: the district court

(The accuser's attorney makes his declaration against Selma.)

**District Attorney:** The state will show that the defendant has not only perpetrated<sup>(7)</sup> the most callous<sup>(8)</sup> ... and well-planned homicide in recent memory ... but is also a fundamentally selfish individual ... who cynically hides behind a handicap, devoid<sup>(9)</sup> of sympathy for anybody but herself. This woman

found trust and friendship when she sought refuge in our country, and the evidence will show that she has repaid such kindness with betrayal, robbery, and murder, inflicted upon the very people who opened their homes and hearts to her. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury ... The evidence will prove that she herself ... did not show that mercy she will ask of us.

Björk

Catherine Deneuve



"Astonishing! An exhilarating and original work of cinema. A triumph of form, content, and artistic integrity."  
—Lisa Schwarzbaum, Entertainment Weekly

a film by Lars von Trier

## Dancer in the Dark

You don't need eyes to see.



ally refers to more menial work tasks; here it means all legal files, which were necessary for reopening Selma's case

**(12) to cover ground:** to deal with many aspects or pieces of information; in hiking, can literally refer to covering a lot of ground along a path or trail.

**(13) milk:** to get money, knowledge or valuables from someone or something by playing on their feelings; here means to win sympathy with Selma's love for her son

**(14) deal:** an agreement or arrangement, especially in business or politics, especially one that is to the advantage of both sides

(By Jiang Xubo)

## Scene 4: Selma's block cell

(Selma's new attorney tried to persuade her to apply for a stay, which was necessary for the reopening of the case.)

**Luke:** I'm your new legal counsel. My name is Luke, okay?

**Selma:** Oh, hi, Luke.

**Luke:** I'm, uh, quite sure ... I can get your sentence commuted<sup>(10)</sup>. All I need is a signature, stating you want the case re-opened... and then I can get all the paperwork<sup>(11)</sup> ready by tomorrow.

**Selma:** Yeah.

**Luke:** There's a lot of things your other lawyer didn't do that I'm going to do, a lot of ground that wasn't covered<sup>(12)</sup> that I am going to cover. The fact that you were fighting for your boy is something we can really milk<sup>(13)</sup>.

I have some experience in cases like this, so...

**Selma:** That's what the attorney before said.

**Luke:** Uh ... yeah. You see, he was appointed by the court, and you don't get the best legal counsel that way.

**Selma:** Y-You were not appointed by the court?

**Luke:** I'm not appointed by the court, no. You're gonna have to pay me. But ... not to worry.

**Selma:** Yeah?

**Luke:** That's been taken care of. I made a deal<sup>(14)</sup> with your ... lady friend.

**Selma:** Deal?

**Luke:** Yeah, in regard to my fee. I've agreed to accept the amount that she said she could raise.



## Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

By Ari Savitzky

### 1. "-ing"

Let's talk about gerunds. When you stick "-ing" after a verb, like "talking," "thinking" or "going," you may have created a gerund. Sometimes these noun-like verb forms are very useful, as they can be the object of another verb, for example, "If I disliked reading, why would I do it?" If it's a phenomenon that continues from the past into the immediate present, or you're standing right there as it happens, it's also OK to use "-ing" verbs in sentences like, "That sector is giving the economy troubles," or, "We were watching the sunset."

Generally, however, the present tense is best for events that are currently happening. For example, "They play pool every Thursday."

### 2. Communication

While it's an increasingly important word in our information age, and has many uses, "communication" isn't always a good direct object. Like so many other nouns with an "-ation" at the end, "communication" can be modified slightly and used as a verb. So don't ever say "make good communication" when you could "communicate well" instead.

### 3. And so on, etc

While native speakers might also make this mistake, adding "and so on" or "etc" to your writing makes it look sloppy. These expressions are always better left unsaid.

### 4. Audience/s

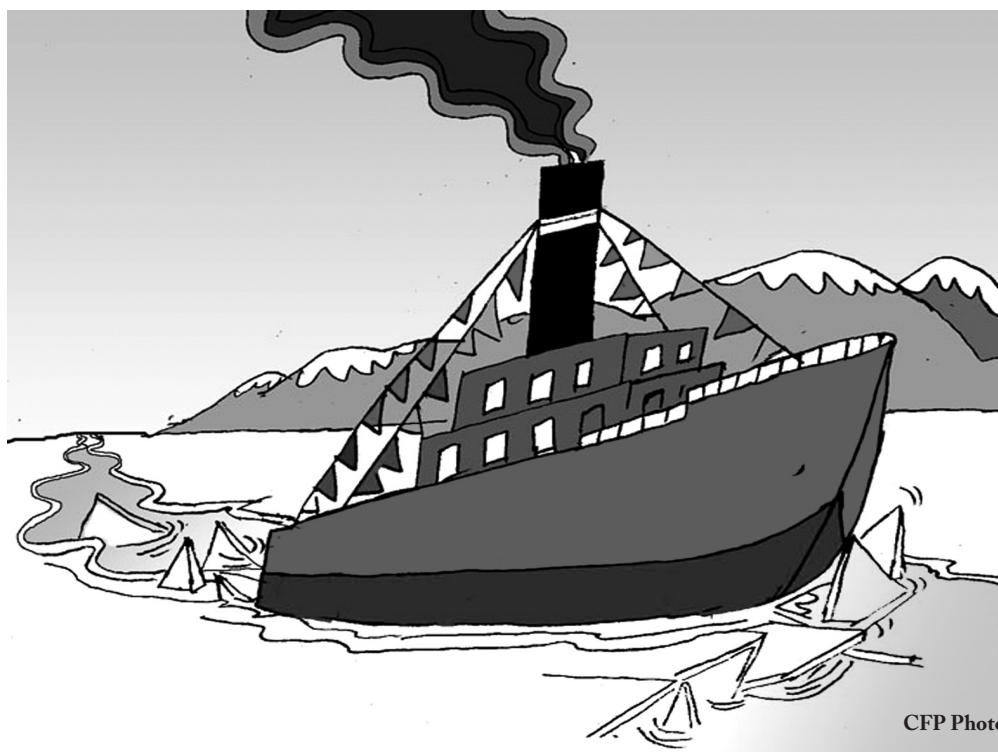
This one can be tough. For every performance, there is one audience, but that does not mean that the plural form, "audiences," is never used. When discussing multiple performances, or the exposure of a performer of performance through different medias, "audiences" is the way to go.

### 5. Attractive

This word often is a throw-away. To avoid a situation where you say a lot and mean little, stop yourself before you say something is "attractive" and ask why. Chances are a better adjective will pop up. A major exception is when referring to a person's looks, when attractive takes on a meaning roughly equivalent to the Chinese "haokan." If you think a person is attractive, and you're not too shy, go ahead and say so.

## Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Shirley at Shirley\_chen@ynet.com.



# Are "water goods" imported by ship?

By Shirley Chen

Even with thousands of English words under my belt, it can be hard to communicate when a new word comes up without a dictionary handy.

This weekend, my new friend, a German girl, ran into some trouble. Her mobile phone was broken, and she couldn't send text messages. "Where can I fix it?" she asked me.

I had no idea, because I was lucky and hadn't had that problem before. She bought her phone less than a year ago, so I suggested she find the warranty card. However, it seemed like a hard job, because her room was

a mess.

"Gosh, how could this happen in less than a year!" she said.

"It could if it is a water good," I said.

"Water? No! I never put it into water," she said, seeming confused.

"Oh, I mean, if it is a water good, not if you put it into water," I said, but she seemed more confused after hearing my words.

What should I have done? I didn't have a dictionary, but I needed to make my meaning clear, because she was looking at me, worried.

"Ah, I mean, if it is fake good ... Oh, no, not exactly 'fake.' I'm just wondering if it was

imported over the water," I said, trying to find a clear word.

"Imported over the water? Do you mean by ship? How could I know?" she said.

Things became more complicated; my last hope lay in speaking Chinese, for she had been learning it. I was really lucky; as soon as I said "shuihuo," she understood it referred to a "smuggled good."

After that, I was curious about how Chinese people could have created such a word: "shuihuo"? Shui means water. Is a smuggled product always imported by a ship? That's a big question ...

## One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

By Chen Shasha

### 1. Cannon / Canon

A cannon is a mounted gun for firing heavy projectiles; a canon is a body of ecclesiastical law or literary work.

### 2. Canvas / Canvass

Canvas is a leather material that's stretched and painted on by artists. To canvass is to investigate by inquiry, discussion or debate, for example, "In the end, George can take a look at where he is, and decide if he wants to concede, but not before the canvass is over."

### 3. Celebrant / Celebrator

A celebrant is a participant in any celebration. According to Wikipedia, in Australia a celebrant is a person who is authorized to perform weddings, but in the US, it is a professional who officiates personalized ceremonies to mark a person's milestones or transitions in life.

"Celebrator" is used only to describe a participant in a non-religious celebration.

### 4. Complementary / Complimentary

Complementary means forming a complement to something else, for example, "These two angles are complementary, as they add up to 90 degrees." Complimentary means conveying or expressing a compliment, often one that is politely flattering. It also refers to something given or supplied without charge, for example, "He often gives me a complimentary ticket."

### 5. Disburse / Disperse

Disburse is to pay out money for expenses; to expend. It can also mean to distribute, for

example, "She disbursed the flowers to the children." Disperse is to drive or send off in various directions; to scatter, for example, "the crowd dispersed in varied directions." It also means to spread widely or disseminate, for example, "To disperse knowledge." Disperse can also refer to physical chemistry, meaning to cause something to separate uniformly throughout a solid, liquid, or gas.

### 6. Discreet / Discrete

Discreet is judicious in one's conduct or speech, with regard to respecting privacy or maintaining silence about something of a delicate nature; prudent or circumspect. Discrete means separate or distinct from others, for example, "six discrete parts."

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send them to Shirley\_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.



Photo by Yves Glaas

## All visitors must Not:

By Ari Savitzky

As Chinglish signs go, this one is not that bad. That said, a little help could make it tighter, less confusing and less redundant.

First, let's dispense with one small error: "Not" should not be capitalized. Capitalizing a word does not add emphasis; rather it just confuses the reader. If sign writers really want to emphasize a word it should be in all caps, or underlined. But this, too, should be rarely done, if ever.

Now to the main issue: why is it necessary to say that visitors to a park should "not swim in the non-swimming areas, skate in the non-skating areas or fish in the non-fishing areas?"

The answer is that it isn't: the definition of a non-swimming area – and really this should read "no-swimming" – is a place where you should not swim.

Presumably, the swimming, skating and fishing areas are clearly labeled inside the park. So why have the sign at all?

The purpose of a sign like this is to make the rules clear before someone jumps into a no-swimming area, or hooks a big one in a no-fishing zone. Telling visitors the definition of "no-swimming" is unhelpful; telling them to be on the lookout for designated swimming, skating and fishing areas makes sense.

So, the sign might work better this way: "Swimming, skating and fishing in this park are only allowed in the designated areas." If that isn't clear enough, "ONLY" in all caps might help get the message across.

Of course, the park will also need to have signs inside that explain where one can and cannot swim, skate and fish. But if it doesn't have those, the original sign doesn't do any good either.



## Friday, April 13

### Exhibition Southeast Asian Contemporary Art



Where: Soka Art Center, B-101 Sky&Sea Business Plaza, No 107 Dongsì Bei Dajie, Dongcheng  
When: Tue-Sun 10am-9pm, until April 29  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8401 2377

### Liu Bin's Innovative Watercolour



Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery, 02 Riverville Square, Tianzhu, Shunyi  
When: Daily 9am-7pm, until April 20  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

### Hundredth anniversary of China's drama old photos



Collector Jian Junxue will exhibit about 100 photos and posts to commemorate the 100th anniversary of China's drama.

Where: Hall of Chaoyang District Culture Center, No 17 Jintaili, Xiaozhuang, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 9am-9pm, until April 20  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8599 4224

### Movie I've Never Told You

Spanish director Isabel Coixet brings us the story of Ann, a saleswoman who tries to kill herself after her boyfriend abandons her. However, another man appears in her life, and the pair gets to know each other on the telephone.

Where: Institute of Cervantes, Section A, Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 7pm  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5879 9666 ext 3001



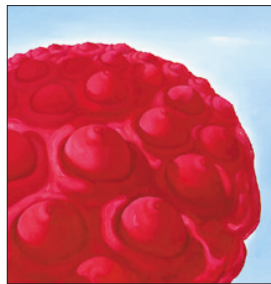
## Saturday, April 14

### Exhibition The New Generation — Young, Simple & Wild



Where: NY Arts Beijing, 318 Art Garden, Hegezhuang, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-4pm, until April 28  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8467 3298

### Luan Weili Solo Exhibition



Where: Two Line Gallery, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-5:30pm, until May 23  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8459 9423  
Gao Zengli Oil Paintings  
Where: Beijing JinDu Art Centre, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-6pm, until April 22

Admission: Free  
Tel: 5130 5546



### Movie Two documentaries by Sam Voutas 1 Shanghai Bride (Shang Hai Xin Niang)

Love is war in a city where eligible men outnumber their potential brides. Shanghai Bride is a rare portrait of ordinary people in an extraordinary social predicament, and a

window into the materialistic and cut-throat nature of Shanghai's marriage market.

### 2 Dragon Sons, Phoenix Daughters (Wang Zi Cheng Long)

A revealing look into the extreme pressures placed on China's children today. This film follows three children from vastly different backgrounds on their quest to fulfill their parents' increasingly high expectations. Jack is a boarder at a professional golf school for children. In between studies, young Zhan Qiang opens beers at his parents' restaurant.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside the Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: 8pm  
Admission: 50 yuan  
Tel: 139 0113 4745

## Sunday, April 15

### Exhibition Chinese Comics — Liu Chunhai Solo Exhibition



Where: Yan Club Arts Center, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 11am-6pm, until April 27  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 8457 3506

### From Zush To Evru — Collection Exhibition



Zush-Evru is one of the most important Spanish artists of his generation, and stands out as a pioneer in the use of new technologies in artistic creation.  
Where: Today Art Museum, No 32 Baizwan Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 9am-5pm, until May 3  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5876 0011

### Steam — Huang Qingjun Photography Exhibition



Where: Cloud & Sky photo Image Gallery, C3006 Jiuchang Art Complex, Beihu Lu, Chaoyang  
When: Tue-Sun 11am-6pm, until May 10  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 5202 3892  
Interface — Fang Zhenning Photography Exhibition  
Where: Wall Art Museum, F/6 Full Link Plaza, 18 Chaoyangmen

Wai Dajie, Chaoyang  
When: Daily 10am-7pm, until April 23  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6588 2213  
Beautiful Plan  
— Han Yajuan's Work



Where: Taikang Top Space, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang  
When: until May 13  
Admission: Free  
Tel: 6438 8443

## Stage in May

### Music

#### Symphony Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra  
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Bei Xinhua Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, May 13  
Admission: 50-680 yuan

#### Orchestre National de Lille Concert

Who: Orchestre National de Lille (France)  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, May 19  
Admission: 50-380 yuan

#### Symphony Concert Season

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra  
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, No 1 Bei Xinhua Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, May 19 - July 21  
Admission: 50-580 yuan

#### Piano Solo Concert

Who: Rosa Torres Pardo  
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, May 21  
Admission: 30-200 yuan

### Dance

#### Swan Lake

Who: Ukrainian National Opera Ballet

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, No 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30pm, May 1  
Admission: 80-880 yuan

#### Broadway Rhythm

Who: BYU Young Ambassadors  
Where: Poly Theater, No 14 Dongzhimen Nan Lu, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, May 18-19  
Admission: 80-480 yuan

#### Giselle and Entre-lacs

Who: Paris Opera Ballet and the National Ballet of China

Where: Tianqiao Theatre, No 30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu  
When: 7:30pm, May 18-20  
Admission: 80-880 yuan

#### La Leyenda, Aires de Villay Corte and El Café de Chinitas

Who: Spanish National Ballet

Where: Tianqiao Theatre, No 30 Beiwei Lu, Xuanwu  
When: 7:30pm, May 24-26  
Admission: 80-680 yuan

### Drama

#### Heinu Hutian Lu (A Record of a Black Slave)

As the closing performance of Beijing International Play Theater, the musical *A Record of a Black Slave* will give the audience a deep view into human nature. Actors show their characters by wearing different color flowers. The Beijing Symphony Orchestra will play the music on the stage.

Who: Beijing Children Art Theater  
Where: The Great Hall of the People, west of Tian'anmen Square  
When: 7:30pm, May 3  
Admission: 300-500 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)